NEWS / A4
Pollard immunity in peril; Ivler faces more raps

METRO / A22
Binay son retains post; reorganization questioned

SPORTS / A18
Pacquiao-Clottey rumble gets grand, glitzy kickoff

WORLD / A24
Haiti quake dead include nationals from 30 countries

'June 30 Movement' launched on Edsa II Day; Comelec lets GMA run for House

By DJ Yap and Kristine L. Alave

SHE IS TO STEP DOWN FROM THE presidency on June 30, 2010, and a movement launched yesterday will make sure that she does.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo will not entirely be out of the corridors of power.

An obstacle to her candidacy was removed when the Commission on Elections (Comelec) second division yesterday dismissed the disqualification case filed by Ely Pamatong against Ms Arroyo.

The irony of recent history was not lost

SPECIAL REPORT A6

Lawyer calls Comelec execs thieves, is jailed

By Kristine L. Alave

THE AMBOS OF PERENNIAL nuisance candidate Ely Pamatong have landed him in jail.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) sends Atty charged Pam-

LAWYER A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, January 21, 2010 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 66 P18

'I want to be king again'

LOL (LAUGHING OUT LOUD) Ariel Amposan Jr. seems to be in a jovial mood while waiting for his aide to Camp Crame, Quezon City, Wednesday to stand trial for the murder of 57 people in November last year.

Erap gets Comelec nod: Watch my rating soar

By Philip C. Tubeza and Kristine L. Alave

WHY JUST BE A "KINGMAKER" WHEN YOU CAN be the "king" yourself?

Fresh from getting the nod of a division of the Commission on Elections for him to take another shot at Malacañang, deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday said he would not withdraw from the presidential race.

Estrada said he would sing it out "to the end" because he wanted to be "king again."

Estrada said the Comelec decision would have a "big impact" on his campaign because his detractors were spreading "disinformation" that he would withdraw from the race or be disqualified.

Now that the poll body has ruled in his favor, he expects his ratings in surveys to rise.

Estrada, the candidate of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, has been a consistent third placer, after Senators Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Manuel Villar.

Speaking at a forum at the Lyceum of the Philippines University, Estrada dismissed allegations that he would eventually withdraw and play the role of "kingmaker" by supporting another presidential candidate.

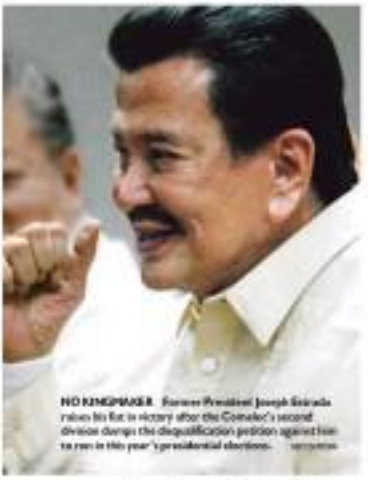
"I want to be king again in myself (and) recover my throne that was stolen from me," he told reporters when asked if he was going to be a "kingmaker."

"Why will I withdraw? No way. No way," he said. "I have a contract with the Filipino people—till death do us part."

The Comelec's second division ruled that Estrada was not covered by the constitutional provision barring an incumbent president from reelection, because he was not a sitting president seeking a second term.

He handled the first legal obstacle in his second run for the presidency when the division

I WANT A6



NO KINGMAKER Former President Joseph Estrada raises his fist in victory after the Comelec's second division dumps the disqualification petition against him to run in this year's presidential elections.

Enrile-Villar faceoff in suspended animation

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

NO FIREWORKS, FOR NOW

The expected faceoff between Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Manuel Villar did not happen yesterday as lack of quorum continued to stall efforts of the majority bloc to have the committee report on the C-5 road project controversy adopted in plenary.

The chamber adjourned before 7 last night with the warring bloss holed up in their respective offices.

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Enrile accused Villar of masterminding his ouster not only to stop deliberations on the C-5 issue but also to put allies in "control" of the Senate leadership in time for the canvassing of votes in the May presidential elections.

Enrile also doubted whether the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer had enough clout to unseat him, claiming he still enjoyed the support of 32 senators in the 22-member chamber. Thirteen votes are needed to in-

ENRILE-VILLAR A11

VILLAR: What P5 billion? The gov't owes me.

ENRILE: Senate leadership faces stiff challenge.

Gory video: Lawyers throw up, walk out

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Marlon Ramos

THE PRIVATE LAWYER REPRESENTING THE KIN OF 14 OF THE 30 journalists killed on Nov. 23 in Maguindanao was so appalled yesterday by footage of bodies being unearthed at the massacre site that he rushed to the ladies' restroom to throw up.

Harry Roque, who stands nearly on feet tall, was viewing a video of policemen and civilians digging up bodies of the alleged victims of principal murder suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr. when he suddenly rose with a hand cupped over his mouth and, making heaving sounds, ran to the back of the second hall of the Noncommissioned Officers' Club in Camp Crame.

Roque ignored the policemen pointing to the entrance of the men's room a few meters farther and hurried to the ladies'

MASSACRE A11

1990 quake survivor dies in Haiti

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Anselmo S. Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

THIS TIME, HE WAS NOT AS lucky or when he encountered a killer earthquake in the Philippines two decades ago.

A powerful new earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 struck Haiti on Wednesday. But the extent of the additional damage or injuries was not immediately clear as of press time. —AP

Reports received the body of Army Sgt. Eusebio Bermudez Jr. on Tuesday night from the ruins of Christopher Hotel in Port-au-Prince, a week after an earthquake pounded Haiti's capital and

1990 QUAKE A15

UNFINISHED DREAM Pamela Perengal shows the "American-designed" house that her daughter Porly promised to complete. (Story on Page A11)

Erich Segal, 72: Never say sorry for 'Love Story'

LONDON—ERICH SEGAL, THE Ivy League professor who attained mainstream fame and made millions sob as writer of the novel and movie "Love Story" has died of a heart attack, his daughter said Tuesday. He was 72.

Francesca Segal said her father, whose popular romantic drama coined the phrase "Love means never having to say you're sorry," died Sunday at his home in London.

She said he had suffered from Parkinson's disease—a neurological condition that affects movement—for 16 years. His funeral was held in London on Tuesday, she said.

Segal was a Yale classics pro-

ERICH A11

Wife: Cerge crisis began with ₱1-M NY dinner

By Christian V. Esguerra, Miko Morales and TJ Burgonio

IT APPEARS THAT PRESS SECretary Cerge Remonde did not die a happy man.

Midway into his job as President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief communicator, he began experiencing what his widow, Maiti Sitoya Remonde, called a crisis of "credibility" owing to the consistently negative publicity his boss was getting.

Speaking with reporters at Remonde's wake at the Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City shortly before Ms Arroyo arrived at 4:40 a.m. yesterday, Maiti said the issue of credibility had meant a lot to her husband of 15 years.

When asked if she regretted not being by her husband's side on the day of his death, Maiti

WIFE A17

Stunning blow to Obama: Democrats lose Kennedy seat

BOSTON—(1) A POLITICAL shocker, a Republican won the US Senate seat long held by liberal champion Edward M. Kennedy, dealing a huge blow to President Barack Obama and his healthcare overhaul plan just as he concludes his first year in office.

The loss was a stunning embarrassment for the White House.

Republican Scott Brown rode a wave of voter anger to beat Democrat Martha Coakley in Tuesday's special Senate election in Massachusetts.

Brown became the first Republican elected to the US Senate from reliably Democratic Massachusetts since 1972.

With Brown's victory in Massachusetts, Senate Democrats lost the 60-vote supermajority needed to achieve Obama's top goals. That could doom the healthcare bill and make it more difficult to pass legislation on climate change and other top White House priorities.

The vote also signaled big political problems for the president's party this fall when House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates are on the ballot nationwide.

It bodes poorly for Democrats ahead of November's congressional elections. If they succeed

STUNNING A17

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Northeast Monsoon affecting the country. Mostly cloudy and occasional rains over all areas and fresh to moderate winds over the northern sections of Luzon and Visayas. Possible storms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Isabela/Cauayan	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Aparri	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Iba	Partly Cloudy
Clark	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Dipolog	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Legaspi-Bicol	Mostly Cloudy
Antipolo	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Courtesy of Weather Solutions Philippines Inc.

Second FRONTPAGE

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GRAND LOTTO 6/55
13 21 | 23 23 | 14 19

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
3 0 7 | 5 8 4

EZ2 DUO 2D
4 0 7 3 | 7 8 9

MEGA LOTTO 6/45
24 27 36 37 42 44
P14,334,073.20

HERE'S TO 2010: President Macapagal-Arroyo toasts the crowd during yesterday's Vin d'honneur in Malacañang. She was joined by (from left) Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, former President Fidel Ramos, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Papal Nuncio Edmund Joseph Adams.

JBC starts search for SC chief

By Norman Bordadora

THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL (JBC) YESTERDAY formally opened the process of nominations or applications for the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The position will be vacant on May 17, when Chief Justice Reynato Puno retires.

In an announcement made by Supreme Court Clerk of Court and JBC ex-officio secretary Lutas Villaruma, the JBC set the deadline for the submission of applications or recommendations on Feb. 4.

The JBC on Monday decided to proceed with the screening process for delivery to dozens who...and to which Presidents...it would submit a short list of at least three names from which the next Chief Justice would be chosen.

Opposition groups had called on the JBC to forego the nomination process until after the next President takes over.

They argue that President Macapagal-Arroyo is barred by the Constitution from making appointments two months before the May 10 elections. The ban starts in March and will last until her term expires on June 30.

Five most senior justices

Mr. Arroyo's allies, on the other hand, say the ban on presidential appointments doesn't cover the appointment of a Chief Justice.

Deputy Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez said no member has been appointed Chief Justice under the 1987 Constitution.

"All of them appointed Chief Justice were incumbent justices. It's always an insider," Marquez said.

Marquez added that the most senior justices always made it to the JBC's short list.

In the present composition of the Supreme Court, the five most senior justices are Associate Justices Antonio T. Carpio, who was appointed on Oct. 26, 2001; Renato Corona, April 9, 2002; Conchita Carpio Morales, Aug. 26, 2002; Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr., March 31, 2006; and Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura, Feb. 7, 2007.

"If you look at precedents, it's always the top three, top four or top five senior justices that make it to the JBC short list," Marquez said.

GMA to youth: Lead fight vs poll violence

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS exhorted the youth to act as "guardians of nonviolence" on the coming May national elections.

"Before I end my term, I aim to consolidate as much as the youth of this nation. They are the future. Education is essential. And I want to instill in our youth a pride in our nation and a desire to get involved in the civic life of our country," she said in her message at the annual tea of bureaucrat, a New Year reception for foreign dignitaries, lawmakers, barrios and Cabinet members at Malacañang.

She called on school-age children to help the country become "more safe and less violent."

"Our young can begin to help ensure that we have not just a free, but also open election, free any fear to free from violence. They can help be the guardians of nonviolence as they interact with adults and others in their communities," she said.

Focus on youth

The President turned this focus on youth throughout her address, mentioning the increase in teachers' pay and its intended teaching of English, among other investments in education.

In his own message, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Edmund Joseph Adams, assured Mr. Arroyo of the international community's support for the country's aspirations for "peace and economic growth."

Peace, he said, "is the supreme objective that demands genuine individual, national, regional and worldwide commitment."

Challenges

Adams also said the international community was aware of the challenges facing government leaders.

"We, here, will intend, too, how demanding it is to stay on the path that leads to consent, reconciliation and peace, how important to this end is the commitment to the dignity of the human person and the defense of human rights," he said.

Adams expressed confidence that Mr. Arroyo, in the few remaining months before the national elections, "will not waver" in her "personal dedication and in dismay for the welfare of this great nation."

"Our very presence in this gathering is an expression of our shared desire and need to join our hands for continued collaboration for peace and the common good. As history teaches that peace and common good is indeed not only a possibility and a compelling goal but our sacred duty," he added. Aveo Lim and Alyssa Gawilan

NEW LAWYER HOMEOWNERS AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS: Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri turned over a signed copy of RA 9904 or the Magna Carta for Homeowners and Homeowners Associations of which he authored and sponsored in a simple ceremony at the Senate of the Philippines. Homeowners and homeowners associations were in attendance, among them are Danilo Mendoza representing Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners Association; Bonifacio Sosa, Federation of Las Piñas Village Associations; Atty. Mario Jalandoni, FOBA; and Atty. Ed Muguerza, Parañaque Federation of Homeowners Associations.

The turn-over was witnessed by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board represented by HLURB Commissioner Romulo Fabul. The Village Voice, a community paper in Muntinlupa City, the Village Voice also sent their representative Sigmund Tenorero, Ms. Nelia Evangelista of SEANGKAT Mario Alfonso of the Federation of Las Piñas Village Association, Mr. Aveo Gramjo, Ms. Andrea Rebusillo and Manolo Dayrit.

Magdalo backs term extension for AFP chief

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MAGDALO GROUP YESTERDAY SAID it was supporting calls for the extension of retired Police of the Philippines (AFP) Chief Gen. Victor Ibrado's term beyond March as this would help boost the confidence of the nation on the upcoming May elections.

Ibrado has been at the helm of the military organization since May last year and has proven to be professional and nonpartisan, according to Magdalo spokesperson Ashley Acedillo.

"Extending the term of Gen. Ibrado would be a good move on the part of the administration... as this would boost the confidence of the electorate and [would] also give the next president a free hand in choosing the next military chief," Acedillo told reporters yesterday.

Talks are rife that when Ibrado retires in two months before the presidential election, Army Chief Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit, reportedly a favorite general of President Macapagal-Arroyo, will take over as military chief.

It would be an unprecedented move of the administration as this could trigger "a lot of suspicions" especially with the upcoming elections, said Acedillo.

Several ranking officials of the AFP had been linked to the "Hello Garci" scandal which supposedly in a taped conversation between former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Macapagal-Arroyo that the latter had cheated in the 2004 elections.

Acedillo said the group's support for Ibrado's term extension was recently tackled in a meeting at Camp Aguinaldo where most of its members are currently detailed for making said rebellion charges in relation to the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and the Manila Peninsula siege in 2007.

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Road rage suspect faces more charges

By Tina G. Santos and Nancy Carvajal

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) is set to file additional charges against road rage suspect Antonio Ma. Ma for wounding Jess Aguirre when he objected to his swerving offenses on Monday.

According to lawyer Angelito Magno, chief of the NBI's Special Action Unit and one of two NBI agents wounded in the gunfight, the business executive is also facing additional charges of direct assault with frustrated and attempted murder against Ma, an American citizen.

Magno was gunned by a bullet in the right thigh, while Special Investigator Ana Lobos was hit in the chest by fragments of a bullet during the shoot-out that erupted when the NBI agents, acting on a tip, raided the home of his mother, Marlene Aguilar, at the Blue Ridge Subdivision in Quezon City.

The 27-year-old Ma, said to be a former United States Marine who served in the Iraq war, has been wounded since November for the fatal shooting of Ronnie Ricafort Jr., during a road altercation.

Magno said they had called out to Ma to surrender but the suspect instead uncovered fierce with reflects of gunfire through the closed door of the residence where he was hiding. The prompted them to retaliate, the NBI official said.

Ma surfaced two greatest wounds in the shoot-out. He remains confined at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) where at least four operatives are guarding him around the clock.

Meanwhile, Ma's mother complained that she was barred by the NBI from speaking to her son.

"He is every mother's right to talk to their children," said Aguilar, adding "human rights must be respected in any circumstances."

Aguilar, native of popular Filipino singer Freddie Aguilar, appealed to the US embassy to help assist her son's rights.

"I am calling on the US Embassy...here is one of your soldiers who fought in Iraq. This is here their (Philippine authorities) treat your soldiers. Protect him and defend him."

The 42-year-old Ma, who is married to a Filipina and has a child, was arrested by NBI agents after he allegedly fired a gun at Aguilar's car following a traffic altercation on Nov. 15, 2009.

Ma's lawyer, Atty. Jose Flaminiano, said his client was not aware that the victim was a member of the NBI.

Flaminiano said Ma was driving his car when Aguilar's car cut in front of him, prompting him to honk his horn.

Aguilar, who was driving a car with his wife and children, then stopped his car and approached Ma's car, pointed a gun at him and fired a shot, Flaminiano said.

Ma then drove away from the scene and proceeded to his mother's house, where he was arrested by NBI agents.

Flaminiano said Ma was not aware that Aguilar was a member of the NBI.

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AWAITING PROBE RESULTS

Stepdad's immunity in peril

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs (DFA) is coordinating with law enforcement authorities on the possibility of stripping the stepfather of road rage suspect Jason Ivler of diplomatic immunity following the latter's arrest by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Eduardo Malaya, DFA spokesperson, said the bureau that the DFA was still awaiting the results of the investigation on the possible expulsion of Stephen Pollard who enjoys diplomatic immunity as a senior economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Actions on the Ivler case are being handled and have to be coordinated with law enforcement authorities. We wish not to encourage and therefore any possible action that they may take in this incident (up against other family members)," he said.

ADB has declined to comment on Pollard's case but assured authorities of its full cooperation.

ADB statement

"This is a matter which involves the ADB staff in his personal capacity and ADB therefore has no comments to make on the matter. ADB will fully cooperate with the author[ities]," said Jane Quon, principal Director of ADB's Department of External Relations.

Ivler, Pollard's stepson, was arrested inside the house the ADB executive shares with his Filipina wife Marlene Aguilar in Blue Ridge Subdivision.

POLLARD

Ivler suffered two gunshot wounds in the chest and 30 stitches on his head at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) where at least four operatives are guarding him around the clock.

Meanwhile, Ivler's mother complained that she was barred by the NBI from speaking to her son.

"It is every mother's right to talk to their children," said Aguilar, adding "human rights must be respected in any circumstances."

Aguilar, native of popular Filipino singer Freddie Aguilar, appealed to the US embassy to help assist her son's rights.

"I am calling on the US Embassy...here is one of your soldiers who fought in Iraq. This is here their (Philippine authorities) treat your soldiers. Protect him and defend him."

The 42-year-old Ma, who is married to a Filipina and has a child, was arrested by NBI agents after he allegedly fired a gun at Aguilar's car following a traffic altercation on Nov. 15, 2009.

2 Syrian fugitives fall, face deportation

THE BUREAU OF Immigration (BI) said its Central Luzon operatives have arrested two Syrians wanted by authorities in their country for murder.

In a report to Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, Immigration Area Director for Central Luzon Hiwasin Manalo identified the Syrians as Alan Fitero and Khaled Mahmoud Dib, who were arrested on Jan. 11 in their rented homes in Barangay San Pedro, Tagaytay City, pending deportation proceedings.

Manalo said he sought the issuance of a mission order against the Syrians at the request of the Syrian consulate in Manila which sought the immediate deportation of the aliens to Damascus.

Libanan, in a statement, said the Syrians' arrest was another proof of the success of the bureau's regionalization program. He urged the public not to hesitate to report to the nearest Immigration office the presence of any illegal or undesirable aliens in their areas.

According to Syrian consulate officials, there is wanted in Syria for a murder case while Dib is a vital witness to the same crime.

They are both undocumented aliens in the Syrian government had already canceled their passports, Arsenia Aning

Pay up; don't blackmail us, Shell told

By Rainer Dantinga

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP. should pay P7 billion in import duties rather than "blackmail" the government with threats of an oil shortage, revenue officials said yesterday.

In a statement, Customs Commissioner Angelina Morales said evading payment of taxes on unleaded gasoline by threatening to stop the production and importation of petroleum products "is tantamount to blackmail."

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has been trying to collect excise taxes on catalytic cracked gasoline (CCG) brought in by Shell in 2004.

Shell maintains that CCG is an input used to make ethanol-10 unleaded gasoline, but the BOC insists it is a finished product and thus liable to excise tax.

When asked for an interpretation of the Tax Code, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under previous commissioners ruled in favor of Shell.

But when BIR Commissioner Jose Li. Tan Torres came on board late last year, the BIR reversed its previous rulings, saying Shell was liable for more than P7 billion in excise and value-added taxes on its unleaded gas imports from 2004 to 2009.

Tan-Torres said the change in the ruling was based on new data—some power of documents refused to the customs in question—that Shell filed with the BOC, which was not previously available.

He added that based on what was previously available, the old rulings were valid, but new information involved is a contrary but correct position.

"Now that the company is being unable to pay the taxes due to the government, Shell refuses to do so and is even threatening to stop the production of petroleum products bound for the country," Morales said.

"The BOC is not making any interpretation or engaging in adjudicating, but simply applying the express provisions of the law," he added.

Morales lamented that some government officials were harassing BOC officers for simply doing their job.

"Some of them are even boycotting for Shell, to the detriment of government interests," Morales said.

In the same statement, Tan-Torres said that if Shell disagrees with the BIR ruling, its remedy by law is to pay its liabilities under protest and file a protest with the BIR.

Tan-Torres added that a customer claiming to be exempt from the payment of taxes had the burden to prove that such exemption was granted it by law.

"Tax exemptions are never presumed and are strictly construed against the taxpayer and liberally in favor of the taxing authority," he explained.

Comelec urged to fine Smartmatic for delays

By Lala B. Salcedo

HAMTRAMCK, THE CORNERSTONE THAT won the contract to automate the May 2010 elections, should pay the Commission on Elections (Comelec) more than P7 million per day of delay in the delivery of the vote-counting machines, a lawmaker insisted yesterday.

Capayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the penalty should be imposed to make sure that Smartmatic would adhere to its agreement with the poll body.

Rodriguez, at a House committee hearing, pointed out that the P7.2 billion poll automation contract contained a provision stating that in case of delay, a portion of the total amount, specifically one tenth of one percent, would be deducted for each day of delay from the amount due Smartmatic.

As this case, the schedule for the delivery of the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines to be used in the voting has not been followed, Rodriguez said.

Overdue

He said that under the contract, 42,000 machines should have been delivered by Dec. 31, 2009. But as of yesterday, only 25,726 machines are with the Comelec. The remaining 60,200 machines are expected to be delivered by Feb. 28.

"There is clearly a delay and therefore violations of the express provisions of the contract," Rodriguez said in a hearing of the House oversight committee on the automation of the 2010 elections.

In a late statement, he said he wanted the penalty provision implemented not so much for the money, but to get Smartmatic to tidied it up from its contract with the Comelec.

He said the 2010 elections are very important, and Smartmatic should not be given a chance to be remiss on its obligations.

"The issue for here is not so much about getting the money. The intention is to make sure that they have something going against them if they still not comply. If the Comelec will stand idle by ... they might postpone and postpone it, so what happens to us? There has to be strict enforcement of the contract and to be able to compel compliance of Smartmatic," he told reporters.

Shipment delay

But during the hearing, Comelec commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said the contract states that all 42,000 PCOS machines would have to be delivered a month from now or on Feb. 16. Smartmatic has even informed the poll body that they might be able to deliver all the machines earlier, or by Feb. 11.

Larrazabal also said the delivery of the machines that were supposed to arrive last Dec. 30 was delayed because of delays in the shipment from China to the Philippines.

Mr Fadlan said that during the presidency of the Supreme Court since filed last year questioning the validity of the Smartmatic-Comelec contract, the poll body had itself slowed down its preparations because it was unsure if the contract would be upheld.

But he said, Smartmatic's Business Future said during the hearing that there was another clause in the contract stating that it may be modified by mutual agreement in accordance with the demands of the period.

Tillado said all Smartmatic had been discussed with the Comelec, and that the firm had been working closely with the poll body.

ANG PAGKAKAMALI NG EDSA DOS

IWASTO NATIN SA MAYO 2010

IBALIK ANG PWERSA SA MASA

"I'm one of those who plead guilty for the 2001 uprising. Lahat naman tayo nagkakamali. Patawarin mo na lamang ako."

– *President Cory Aquino at the JDV Book Launching December 22, 2008*

"The 1987 Constitution suffered... The Rule of Law was set aside and the Rule of Force prevailed."

– *Hon. Cecilia Muñoz Palma Chairman of the 1987 Constitutional Convention and Former Justice of the Supreme Court*

"The change of power in the Philippines was no boost for democracy because it was done outside the Constitution..."

– *Lee Kuan Yew Minister Mentor of Singapore*

"I hope you can forgive the Catholic Church for what it has done to you."

– *Bishop Antonio Tobias*

The Daily Gospel

Thursday, January 21, 2010
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 15:16-9, 19-23
Gospel: Mk 3:7-12

Jesus and his disciples withdrew to the Lakeside and a large crowd from Galilee followed him. A great number of people also came from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, Transjordan and from the region of Tyre and Sidon, for they had heard of all that he was doing. Because of the crowd, Jesus told his disciples to have a boat ready for him, to prevent the people from crushing him. He healed so many that all who had illnesses kept pressing forward in order to touch him. Even the people who had evil spirits, whenever they saw him, would fall down before him and cry out, "You are the Son of God." But he warned them severely never to tell anyone who he was.

Commentary

[illegible]

Corrections

IN THE JAN. 20 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Simmonds' flood wound to prayer of thanks"—misspelled the surname of President Arroyo's election lawyer. The lawyer's name is Romulo Macalintal—not Malacañang.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Inq Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2nd Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Africa, Makati, Mailing Box 2004, 1st Mail, 887-47-83/84, e-mail address: [illegible]

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: [illegible] or fax No. 897-47-83/84, 815, The Publisher (the phone number is 897-8000 local 500).

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Metro article on Page A19—"Binay not satisfied in council shakeup"—misstated the name of a Makati councilor. The councilor's name is Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr.—not Jejomar Rimay. The latter is the councilor's father and mayor of Makati City.

* * *

THE SAME ARTICLE, as well as a front-page window, misstated that the youngest Binay was named as majority floor leader of the Makati city council. Binay was named only as chair of two council committees.

'I want to be king again'; no to kingmaker

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer.net

FORMER Joseph Estrada waves as the crowd after the Comelec second division ruled that he can run for president in the May 9 elections. EPA/KEYSTONE

dismissed the three petitions seeking to declare him a nuisance candidate and to disqualify him from the May 10 presidential election.

The second division is composed of Commissioners Sherohman Parong, Leonora Tagle and Elias Yusoph.

High-profile cases

The Estrada disqualification case was one of the high profile cases handled by the second division. Recently, it ruled for the removal of Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca from their seats following the revision of votes in their electoral protest cases.

It was also the second division that reversed the party-list accreditation of Ang Ladlad, a gay rights group, barring it to run in the 2010 race. But the Supreme Court has directed the poll body to include Ang Ladlad in the ballots to be printed for the party-list election.

Estrada, who attended the proceedings of the ruling at the Comelec headquarters in Intramuros, Manila, beamed with pleasure when the division dismissed the cacophony filed by lawyer Evello Fermeso and nuisance candidates Mary Lou Estrada and Eli Pamorong due to "inner lack of merit."

Not yet over

Former President Fidel Ramos said the dismissal of the disqualification case should not be a cause for celebration yet for Estrada.

"Well, that's good but we must understand that there are more steps to be taken and I'm sure whatever preliminary

his original disqualification by the Comelec in person go after the same step. So it's not yet over," Ramos told reporters after the eve of Erap's inauguration as Manila mayor.

Pamorong said he would file a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec en banc to overturn the division ruling.

He has three days to file an appeal.

Should the Comelec uphold the second division's ruling, Pamorong said he would elevate his case to the Supreme Court.

Let people decide

The second division said Estrada, who became president in 1998 and was ousted in a people power in 2001, was not a nuisance candidate as claimed by Pamorong, Mary Lou Estrada and Fermeso.

Citing the Comelec's mandate to hold free elections, the commissioners said they would not bar the people from deciding on Estrada's political fate on May 10.

"It is the Filipino people who should act as the final arbiter on whether they would have Estrada as again as president," said the division's ruling.

"On political questions, this court may err but the sovereign people will not. To be sure, the Constitution did not grant to the unelected members of the court the right to elect in behalf of the people," it added.

The ruling Equipo-led Estrada was accompanied by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, former senators Ali Dimaporo, Mare Leo Estrada and Pimentel.

Ms Arroyo is required to consider power on June 30 to the newly elected president, but she is running for a congressional seat in her home province, Pampanga, currently occupied by his son Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Aside from Ms Arroyo's, Pamorong also asked the Comelec to disqualify President Benigno Aquino III and Vice President Jejomar Binay from running for public office. (See story on Page A13.)

Let people decide

The second division, led by Commissioner Arthur Tabaquin, said there were no legal grounds for disqualifying a sitting President from seeking a second term.

The commission also said Arroyo is covered by the constitutional ban prohibiting an incumbent President from seeking reelection "should he discontinued on-right," in decision read.

Pamorong, who was arrested in 2009 after the metal spikes he threw on Edsa disabled vehicles and caused a major traffic disturbance, also

Vindicated

As the Lyceum, Estrada said he was "vindicated" by the Comelec decision.

"I feel vindicated and it falls exactly as the day I stepped down from Malacañang. God does not sleep. The truth will set me free," said Estrada, who had been convicted of plunder in 2007 but was pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As to Pamorong's assertion that Estrada was convicted of plunder and, therefore, could not run for public office, the second division said the petition that Estrada received from Ms Arroyo in 2007 restored all of his civil rights.

"This executive clemency granted to the former President being absolute and unconditional and having accepted by him, the same can no longer be revoked," the decision read.

Thanking the Comelec commissioners for being fair, Estrada said the victory was not only his but also the Filipino people's "because sovereignty emanates from the people. So, let the people decide."

Pamorong's complaint against Estrada's candidacy the most controversial of the three petitions, was anchored on the argument that the constitutional ban was absolute and covered recruits.

Citing the journals of the 1986 Constitutional Convention, he noted that the framers of the Constitution intended the ban to cover all former presidents.

Bad precedent

Furthermore, Pamorong maintained that allowing the former president to run in the generic elections would create a bad precedent.

"It will also defeat the wisdom behind the creation of the aforementioned constitutional provision which prescribes as one full six years the term of the president of this republic without the benefit of reelection," Pamorong said.

The second division rejected Pamorong's arguments and pared the wording of the provision, which states that "the President shall not be eligible for any reelection."

Article VII, Section 4 also states that "no person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time."

If the framers of the Constitution believed that a president should not seek another election just after his term, they would have explicitly written it, the division said.

Practical interpretation

It noted that the practical interpretation of the provision showed that "like Estrada," referred to the incumbent official.

"Particular, cannot running for the same position as the one currently held and/or were prior," the second division said.

"Our point of view then is that the intent of the presidential exclusion ban is primarily directed against a person who has served as President for more than four years," it said.

Hence, limited Presidents Estrada has not served for more than four years, but only two and a half years, he should be qualified to run for President in the 2010 election as any future presidential elections," the ruling said.

Gray area

The division acknowledged that the issue of whether or not a president, who did not serve the full six year term, could run for public office again was a "gray area."

"And in these instances, as in the rule in election law, we will sway toward the direction of eligibility, where a liberal interpretation of the election laws is warranted. A different task would be anathema in that concept of free elections," the ruling said. With reports from TJ Burgonio, Christine Esguerra, Leila Salaverria and Jhesa Pinlibuyan

'June 30 Movement' launched on Edsa II Day; Comelec lets GMA run for House

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer.net

on a group of religious, military and civil society leaders who celebrated the ninth anniversary of Edsa II by calling on the senators to helped install new president in 2016.

June 30 demonstrators marched down Ortigas Avenue toward the Edsa Shrine in Quezon City yesterday can with the grandiose design of naming a president but with a humble campaign to make the sitting President have office on midday of June 30.

The division said that there was no legal hindrance to Ms Arroyo's candidacy and that the members should be left for the second division of Pamorong's denials.

"It's ironic," said Rodolfo "Fat" Lacuda, whistle-blower of the controversial National Broadband Network deal.

June 30 movement

"She (President Macapagal-Arroyo) has to leave midday of June 30 as the Constitution says. In whatever shape or form or capacity, and not for one minute longer should she remain power," he said.

The group called itself the "June 30 Movement."

Ms Arroyo is required to consider power on June 30 to the newly elected president, but she is running for a congressional seat in her home province, Pampanga, currently occupied by his son Juan Miguel Arroyo.

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told the Comelec that Ms Arroyo could not run for public office as this would be a legal battle against her opponent.

He also noted that the President was running the least one to escape the charges that would be filed against her after she stepped down.

"We should simply let the people decide and not submit into our own judgment for the people's enlightened choice," the division said.

Ms Arroyo, like Estrada, is not a nuisance candidate as she has shown that she has supporters and the capability to wage an electoral campaign, it said.

Waste of time

Saying Pamorong's arguments were flawed, the second division chastised the self-proclaimed author and lawyer for filing such petitions.

"It is a waste of our precious time and will only serve to clog the dockets of this Commission," the ruling said.

Pamorong's petition was the second case filed against the President. The other disqualification case was submitted by Alfonso Bay, Bun Hechanova and is being studied by the first division.

At the Edsa Shrine, Senator Bayan Jr., Bayan secretary general said, he heard it being that for the past few years, groups had set out to cry to restore Ms Arroyo from Malacañang but soon, all they hoped for was that she step down from the presidency since her term ends.

"It's not that we did not try," he told the Inquirer.

"For the past three-four years, down have been attempts to restore people power. But they've only met suppression. People were called destabilizers. People have been killed. Critics have been jailed," Bayan said.

"If you're a teenager now, for half of your life you've known only one President, and that is GMA," he said.

Respect Constitution

Sr. Mary John Mananzan, chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), said: "We're here to remind her (Ms Arroyo) to respect the Constitution that put her in power, and to restore her office."

"We're only committing ourselves to the Constitution. We're not even asking for her to resign. Our goal is to make sure that she steps down on midday of June 30 as the Constitution mandates," Mananzan said.

The group assembled at the entrance gates of De La Salle-Greenhills before noon and from there marched to the Edsa intersection and encouraged at the fenced site of the two "people power" revolts in 1986 and 2001.

The group included leaders and members of KMBB the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, Promotion of Church People's Response, Bagbabago People's Movement for Change, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Courage and Gabriela.

They showed on slogans, but they carried placards bearing messages like: "No to Cha-cha Konsa" and "End Gloria's Tyranny."

Intercessor Sheeh Dr-

tora of Pagbabago said there remained hours of a no-election scenario, in which Ms Arroyo would become prime minister under a parliamentary government despite her pronouncements to the contrary. "The woman says one thing, does another," she said.

Manifesto

The marchers heard Mass at the shrine chapel at noon. Afterward, they distributed copies of the June 30 Movement manifesto. They said they were seeking signatures.

The manifesto started with a quote from Jose Rizal: "There are no tyrants where there are no slaves."

It ended with: "I hereby affix my signature on this document to affirm my commitment to perform my duty as a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines particularly in asserting our sovereign right to demand a peaceful transition of power from Ms Arroyo to the next President of the Republic other than herself in accordance of June 30, 2016."

Lawyer calls Comelec commissioners thieves, is jailed

Frances Mangosing
Inquirer.net

along with direct contempt and ordered him to be detained at Manila City Jail, after he interrupted the proceedings of the second division.

Pamorong, a self-proclaimed author and lawyer who once tried to sue Pope Benedict XVI, attempted to walk out of the Comelec session hall at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday to announce the ruling on the disqualification case he filed against current President Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

'You're all thieves'

"I want to leave! Mga mga nakakaw! Aapog labo! You're all thieves!" Pamorong yelled at Commissioners Sherohman Parong, Leonora Tagle and Elias Yusoph.

As Pamorong left the room, an angry Yusoph shouted an order to the guards. "Arrest him!" he said.

In a statement distributed to the media, Pamorong accused the commissioners of accepting P6 million each to "distribute" Arroyo, the candidate of Nilalang Nagang Gapuman, would be included in the list of presidential candidates.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the standard-bearer of Liberal Party, has asked the Comelec to declare Arroyo a nuisance candidate.

Brown, the presiding officer of the division, has ordered Pamorong to be jailed for 10 days and to pay a fine of P1000 for creating a scene.

Pamorong, who wants the Philippines to be annexed by the United States, did not resist the Comelec security guards when they surrounded him and moved him outside the session hall.

"Don't touch me. I won't escape," he said.

After Pamorong was brought outside, the second division proceeded with the promulgation of its ruling.

LAWYER Ely Pamorong pays the price for calling Comelec officials "magnanakaw!" (thieves); the was ordered arrested for contempt and to spend 10 days in jail. EDD GUMBAN

Perez and Pamorong, whose certificate of candidacy for president has been denied once and again, crossed the line with his outburst.

In the past, Pamorong's deal-

logs with the Comelec only dealt with paperwork and short appearances in the hearings, the commissioners said.

Direct contempt not bailable

Pamorong's public accusation that commissioners accepted bribes was like a "punch in the face," Perez said.

"We didn't want to pay attention to him, but unfortunately, what he did was nonacceptable. He created a disturbance in the presence of so many important personalities and lawyers there," Perez said.

He said that if the commission did not do anything, "nobody might respect us anymore."

Pamorong, who was arrested in 2004 for throwing metal spikes on Edsa, will have to serve time as direct contempt is not bailable, Perez said.

He said the division was considering asking the Supreme Court to disbar Pamorong.

MARVIN CLEMENT SOBREVILLA
Manila Bureau Assistant Chief
Trunkline: (02) 896-6000 loc. 3308
Tel. No.: (02) 924-0123
Fax No.: (02) 924-0123
E-mail: ing_clem@inquirer.com.ph

MARVIN LEONARD GARCIA
Cebu Bureau Assistant Chief
Trunkline: (032) 255-6000
Cebu Bureau: (032) 255-6000
E-mail: ing_leo@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

CHRISTINE BENDIA
12th Flr., Inquirer II, no. 5 Teresa St., Bgy. Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (02) 924-0123 loc. 3308
Fax No.: (02) 924-0123
E-mail: ing_christine@inquirer.com.ph

MARIA CORAZON
5th Flr., Inquirer II, no. 5 Teresa St., Bgy. Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (02) 924-0123 loc. 3308
Fax No.: (02) 924-0123
E-mail: ing_maria@inquirer.com.ph

Palawan polls fought in courtrooms

Mitra, rivals' residencies questioned in string of disqualification cases

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—ELECTIONS IN PALAWAN are being fought early in the courtrooms of the Commission on Elections, with key protagonists slapping each other with disqualification cases.

Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra's bid for governorship was questioned by allies of the third rival, businessman Jose Chavez Alvarez, who protested on that Mitra flew to Puerto Princesa City, which is a highly urbanized city that should elect a governor, and was not qualified to run for the province's top post.

In a petition to the Comelec, Jose Vicente Marco Antonio Gonzales accused Mitra of falsely stating his place of residence to be in the southern town of Aborlan, while he is known to actually live in the family residence in this city.

Under construction

Gonzales said he filed the petition upon learning that Mitra, upon filing his certificate of candidacy, declared his residence to be "a house still under construction."

He said Mitra only recently started building a house in Barangay Isaub, Aborlan, but does not yet live there.

"He deliberately lied about his residence. Everybody in that place knows that he does not live there," Gonzales said.

Mitra's chief of staff, lawyer Phoebe Gonzales, however, charged off the complaint, saying Mitra had already established his residence in a host still in Aborlan early last year to compliance with the election code and in anticipation of his plans to run for governor.

Life in a bed mill

Antonio Gonzales said, however, that Mitra's claim of starting a place in a bed mill in Aborlan years "was an afterthought."

"How could he claim to be living now in a bed mill? That's silly to begin with. There are no living facilities there," he said.

"There is a commotion in the warehouse that was converted to a residential area. They (Mitra's camp) don't know (and living," lawyer Gonzales said.

A counterattack has been filed by Mitra's known supporters against Alvarez, a businessman and elder brother of southern Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, claiming that the latter was a Cagayan de Oro City resident, but also claiming that the businessman also lived in Puerto Rico in Makati City.

Business in San Vicente

The businessman, however, said he had long established residence in Sitio Landing in San Vicente town.

Antonio Gonzales, a cousin of Alvarez, said the businessman had in fact established his residence in his friends even ahead of himself and his brother-in-law governor, when he became the third owner of a logging concession there in the 1980s.

The city's convention lists in 1LC to 2007, which had the official of excluding voters from the capital from electing provincial officials, have complained that also allies of local candidates who actually live in Puerto Princesa City.

Outgoing Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, who traditionally votes in the first congressional district in Coron, but who actually lives in Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa, is standing for vice governor of the second district and declared his residence to be in Tigtun, Aborlan.

Antonio Gonzales has also filed a disqualification case against Reyes and his wife, Exequiela, who is running for vice governor in the ruling ticket with Mitra. (Inquirer Intern Angelo Inquirer Southern Luzon)

HOUSE under construction owned by Rep. Abraham Mitra in Aborlan, Palawan.

Farmers in caravan share horror stories

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—THEY come from groups whose names are in different languages—from Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon—but these farmers share the same stories and the message that have brought them together in a march that could bring them to Malacañang tomorrow.

Farmers, led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), started a 30-day caravan in Davao City last week and converged with other farmers from the Visayas, Bicol and Southern Tagalog on Tuesday.

Dodong Dinong, a 30-year-old farmer, is a farmer in the mountains of Tagbok District, Davao City, and a member of the group Kilos ng Lumad.

They came with soldiers

His parents and family and 37 other farmer families, shared land where they planted Arroro, corn and abaca. Then a group calling itself Alsan Cluster Cooperative came, followed by the soldiers.

"The soldiers started to harass our houses like dogs," said Dinong.

Dinong and his fellow farmers weren't able to return to their land.

Some took jobs as hired hands in banana plantations, but many others are jobless because they have no formal education.

From farmers to workers

Four times, Alejandro Alanio, 34, said he and 1,126 other farmers were also driven out of their land. They have since become just workers in other people's farms.

From Mindanao, Sonny Alegre, 49, has the same story to tell. He and 47 other farmers were driven from the land they tilled in 2007.

From this city, Nenibith Antolin, 57, and 104 other farmers were driven out of the farms they were tilling in 1989. The farms become timber concessions.

The farmers are now calling for justice.

Dinong's uncle, tilled chairman Datu Dumbracker Dinong, was killed in April 2008, while he slept at home with his family. A bullet is still lodged in the head of one of his children, who was hit in the attack.

Bobby Ligutan, 39, said seven of his men were killed by Army goodies in 2007 in Dalo, Leyte.

A relative of Amelia Indrias, was gunned down as she spoke before a farmers' group in this city.

Abalio said one farmer was also killed in their place when they refused to leave the land.

Mendiola massacre

Most other farmers in the caravan have been fighting for land and justice since 1987, when 19 farmers were killed on Mendiola Bridge from Don Chino Roces Bridge) as they demanded genuine land reform.

"During those years have passed but there is still no land and no justice for the farmers," said Danilo Ramos, KMP secretary general. (Carlos Cuilling Pedersbrock, Inquirer Intern/Kara Lizares)

Sinulog draws 8M people—and pols, too

By Jhannon Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FOR A FESTIVAL CREATED to extol other festivals around the country, the Sinulog Festival has come a long way this year as 8 staggering up to 8 million people on Sunday, according to police.

Police made the crowd estimate, saying the figure included the number of people who were on the parade route, spectators inside the Cebu City Sports Center grandstand and the Basilica del Santo Niño de Cebu.

"It was record-breaking," said Vice Rhoy Cabrera, head of the Cebu City Police Office.

YICE presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda is attracted by a shirt worn by a performing ice Sinulog crowd in her police vanderwear but a great of 8 million people. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mass of these were Sto. Niño devotees from other provinces and countries, but many others were foreign tourists.

Overflowing streets

The festival parade, which was the traditional a number of the image of the Child Jesus and the Blessed Virgin de la Guadalupe from Binalbagan City to Cebu City on Saturday drew thousands of devotees who braved the rains and strong winds.

Spectators filled the two bridges linking Cebu mainland to Mactan Island to witness the parade's passing.

In the afternoon, an estimated 2.3 million people joined the solemn procession amid rains and despite the longer route.

However, the final day of the Sinulog festival drew the most people.

Solar and company

A mix of people filled the six-kilometer parade route.

Politicians were also visible as Sinulog organizers said they could not prevent them from joining the annual event.

Presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar, vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda and senator Ramon Revilla Jr. (LP) constituted candidates marched along the parade route and shook hands with people, giving media interviews along the way.

Sultan Octanjes, Bayan Muna representative and TSP guest senatorial candidate, was also in the parade route.

Octanjes's staff members, who also joined the parade, wore shirts with his name.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

With lake still swollen, 3 options emerge

Officials look at dredging, spillway, Caliraya facility

By Marian Cinco
San Pedro, Laguna

WHAT TO DO WITH THE SWOLLEN LAGUNA lake? Authorities are looking at three options—dredging, building a P20-billion Pansipaque spillway and putting up the Caliraya hydroelectric system to help remove excess water from the lake.

Late last year, a rising of marine caused a sudden rise in the water level of Laguna de Bay, flooding hundreds of lakeside towns.

"Water from the lake could be pumped into the Caliraya Lake in the towns of Lumban and Cavinti in Laguna and be used by a hydroelectric power plant," said Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, in a phone interview.

The Pansipaque spillway, on the other hand, could speed up draining of excess water to prevent an overflow of the lake, he said. At present, excess water drains only through the Pasig River in the Manila Bay, causing floods to linger for months.

"The governor has given a directive and talks are already underway with the LLDA," said provincial information officer Cindy Banji.

Banji said the dredged soil could be used to build a breakwater around the lake.

Illegal settlers

The provincial government has also increased by half the number of Bantay Lawa (lake watchmen) to monitor illegal settlers and prevent them from returning to the lakeshore.

The water level in Laguna lake peaked on 14 meters or the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Santi" in September and October last year, and nearly breached its all-time high of 14.62 meters registered in 1986.

It has subsided to its present 12.25 meters, but "billions of cubic meters" of excess water still has to be drained before it returns to its average of 11 meters, said Manda.

Dredging will begin in the fourth quarter, he said.

"Water has subsided begining the second week of December, except in areas that are really low-lying (such as) in San Pedro, Biñan and Cabuyao," he said.

In Laguna, the number of evacuees has gone down from hundred thousands to 2,000, according to the provincial government.

"The remaining families are staying in tent cities provided by the government," Banji said.

Most evacuees have already returned to their homes, moved in with relatives or found other residences.

Provincial administrator Dennis Lazaro said in an earlier interview that the relocation of illegal settlers from the coastline, whose shanties and source income for the swelling of the lake, would require a long-term, concerted effort from the national and local government.

Political decision

"It is a political decision. It can't be done even in 10 years," Lazaro said, referring to some local leaders who were opposing the relocation for fear of losing potential voters.

He said the relocation "should be a national government project through the leadership of the LLDA."

The immediate solutions being considered by the provincial government are the lake's dredging and the renovation of the Pansipaque spillway, Lazaro said.

In Biñan, rebuilt after sustained damages from the typhoons, Manda said only around 1,200 families were staying at basketball courts converted into evacuation centers.

Manda said the LLDA had already moved 800 families out of Laguna Ayuda in Biñan before the year ended to a site in Bañlagan (Mamalibay) town, also in the province.

Isn't aid

Lazaro said help from international organizations continued to pour in for the rehabilitation of the typhoon-affected communities.

The national government will give P10,000 in financial assistance to families whose houses were destroyed by the flood and P5,000 to those with damaged houses.

The World Food Program, which earlier gave food assistance to the displaced families, was on its second round of donations.

AS WATER starts to recede at the Laguna de Bay, disaster-like site are those in places are being rebuilt in Paté town in Laguna.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ ALBAY

Paramedics trained

PROVINCIAL officials started giving a six-month intensive training on Monday in Legazpi City to 100 paramedics, mostly nursing graduates, who will be tapped in times of disaster.

The volunteers started training with the Emergency Paramedic Training Unit of the Bicol Emergency Medical Center, Office of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office.

The program has a P1.5 million budget—P1 million from the Albay provincial office and P0.5 million from the Department of Health.

Ray M. Rimat
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LAGUNA

8 drug users nabbed

POLICE arrested eight drug users in Biñan town on Tuesday, police said on Wednesday. Senior Supt. Marcelo Labrador, Laguna police director, said police were conducting an antigambling operation in Barangay Malaban when they chanced upon the eight men in a pot session.

Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BATANGAS

Dog leads to killing

A MAN who died on a 42-year-old victim in a road accident in Lipa City is a village in Calaca town.

Senior Supt. Alberto Lopez, Batangas police chief, said Ma. Teresa Rodriguez and her brother, Antonio, 48, fought over Teresa's cruel treatment of Antonio's pet dog.

As the height of argument, Rodriguez took a rifle and shot Antonio in the head, killing him.

Lopez said Antonio took a rifle and shot his brother once, killing him. He is the fourth case involving fatal deaths between surveillance police.

Marcel Eoks Lacaba
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BACOLOD

Wage hearings to start

THE INSTITUTE Wage Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board will start public hearings on petition for a P66 wage increase filed by labor groups in the region.

Melanie Sandino, labor representative in the board, said on Tuesday the hearings schedule is held at the Iloilo Grand Hotel in Iloilo City on Feb. 4 and at Tinggo's Harbor Foods Restaurant in Bacolod City on Feb. 18.

The Iloilo Resources Club is opposing the wage petition. "For the labor sector, all the petitioners are trying to ask for a wage increase," said Sandino.

Zaida P. Alcober, Inquirer Visayas

■ NEGROS

Cop charged with murder

A POLICE officer suspected in the killing of a retired policeman is serving for custodian of Dasiguran town was charged with murder at the provincial prosecutor's office, police said Tuesday.

Senior Supt. Victor Biran, Siaya police superintendent, said PO3 Alex Sinita, of the Julian town police, was charged with killing Julio Cogollan Jr., retired policeman and candidate for councilor of Dasiguran.

Biran said Inspector with point of in Siaya at police lineup on her husband's murderer. Inspector who said her husband was talking to her and friends when he was gunned down by Cogollan before dawn on Jan. 6 on a bridge near the Dasiguran public market.

Ray M. Rimat
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CAMARINES SUR

Drop backers in ambush

THREE supporters of purported plunder convict Joseph Estrada and five other passengers of an office vehicle were injured in a road accident early Wednesday morning in Masaging Bridge in Pili town.

PO2 Elmer Saldivia said a pick-up truck overtook and slammed into a van carrying Estrada supporters past 2 a.m.

Jonas Cabilo Zafra
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gov sees politics in move to scrap Cavite LRT plan

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—UNSETTled by the national government suddenly shelved a plan to extend the Light Railway Transit (LRT) to Cavite, Gov. Jonvic "Boying" Remulla rallied some 20,000 supporters on Wednesday to call for the continuation of the project.

"This project is 11 years in the making. I was still a mayor then, then I became a congressman, and now I've almost completed my term as the governor and we are still pushing for this," an emotional Remulla told reporters.

He said the decision of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to scrap the P1.34-billion LRT Line 1 South Extension Project (LRT-1 SEP) a few months before the presidential elections came as a surprise.

Newspaper reports earlier quoted Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza as saying that "there's no more time for it."

The proposed 11.7-kilometer LRT line will connect the existing railway from south of Baclaran to Governor Drive in Cavite, passing through the towns of Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, at least eight passengers stations will be put up.

"The project has a gestation period of two years and there's no more time. We decided to leave it to the next administration," said Mendoza, quoting Mendoza.

The governor said the incoming administration might bring the proponents back to square one.

Politics

The DOTC and the National Economic and Development Authority had been talking with potential project contractors, Mendoza said. The two agencies had also completed studies and found it "advantageous to the government," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had given assurance on her 2009 State of the Nation Address that the LRT-1 SEP would be a "priority project," he said.

Just before Mendoza's latest pronouncement of the project's deferment, proposals from SNC Lavalin, International Finance Corp., the Shanghai Group Corp. for Economic and Technological Cooperation and R-5 Holdings Inc. had already been submitted to the DOTC for its evaluation and approval, but no contract has yet been signed.

"Why are they scrapping it now? Why are they scrapping it? Does politics have something to do with this?" Malikit said before his supporters in front of the provincial capitol here.

Malikit is pursuing his congressman to represent the lone district of Imus under the Liberal Party (LP) in May.

He said the election ban on government projects should not be a reason to freeze the LRT extension project since this would be foreign-funded.

Commuters, trade affected

It will soon heavy traffic conditions in Cavite, particularly in Imus, which is nearer to Metro Manila, Malikit said. At least one million commuter to and from Cavite, but subscribers can save hours of hours of time because of road congestion.

The project would also boost trade and commerce in the province, Malikit said.

"I do not want to attack her (Arroyo), but now I see why her popularity ratings (are low). This is a project for the people (and it was scrapped)," he lamented.

The provincial board has approved a resolution calling for the immediate implementation of the LRT-1 SEP, Marivic Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE LRT Line 2 terminal in Cubao, Quezon City

'I do not want to attack her (Arroyo), but now I see why her popularity ratings (are low)'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Piece of paper?

POLITICS MUST BE PART OF THE REASON WHY Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is facing censure in the Senate, but it must be present) not that it is responding to allegations of wrongdoing in the so-called C5 case, Villar has been nothing but political. The result is a continuing controversy that has undermined the credibility of the country's most independent political institution.

EDITORIAL Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, a Nacionalista party stalwart rising to the defense of the Nacionalista party chief, illustrates how partisan politics can go wrong.

Asked for comment on the draft report of the entire chamber (the Senate had constituted itself into a Committee of the Whole) seeking to censure Villar and which was leaked to the business, the highly sensitive Cayetano replied: "Until the report is signed by the majority of the senators, it's nothing but a piece of paper."

Strictly speaking, he is correct. But strictly speaking, the Senate resolution to the ousting signed by 12 senators late last year and absolving Villar of any impropriety in the C5 case was nothing but a piece of paper, too. It preceded the release of the committee report it was supposed to be premised on. And yet that did not stop Cayetano and other allies of Villar from using the document as proof of exoneration for the presidential candidate.

This kind of grossly partisan behavior reminds us of the Arroyo administration's political excesses. It leads us to ask: What makes Cayetano, Villar and his allies different from those administration personalities, from Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo on down, who have poisoned our political institutions with the toxin of partisanship?

To be sure, the decision of 12 senators to sign the committee report was misreported by many as already a decision to censure Villar. In fact, as Senator President Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada told reporters, the signing was a vote "only to bring the matter to the floor for discussions."

The failure of the Senate to conduct the discussion for lack of a quorum, however, can be blamed on Villar and his allies. Yet, Estrada was also remiss in his responsibilities when he did not ensure the presence of all the 12 senators who signed the committee report. Particularly intriguing is Sen. Serafin Lacson's absence, when it was he who first raised disturbing questions about possible impropriety in the first place. Sen. Edgardo Angara was another report signer who failed to show up.

But the absence of Villar and many of his allies—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Cayetano and his sister Pia, maverick Joker Arroyo, even Francis Pangilinan who signed both the resolution clearing Villar and the committee report recommending his censure—all but scuttled Estrada's plan to bring the report to the floor and commence deliberations.

This political decision on Villar's part (it would strain human reason to believe that he and his allies did not act in concert) is difficult to understand from the strategic perspective. If, as Villar has already said on the record, he firmly believes that he did nothing wrong and that the numbers are simply not there to expel, suspend or even reprimand him, why doesn't he return to the Senate and argue his case? Why take the risk, as an angry Estrada did yesterday, of being called a coward, and unworthy of the presidency?

The old answer, that his enemies in the Senate are waging a political vendetta, that the committee report was drafted (in Pimentel's grating words) by "biased enemies," did not work before and does not work now. Surely the real answer to partisanship in a political process is not more partisanship but less, for more partisanship, of the populist variety, is precisely what Villar and his allies bring to the table. They would prefer that the people decide. Indeed, that is exactly what Cayetano said the other day. "The good thing is we can put side by side the committee report and the resolution signed by the 12 senators and let the people judge," he said in a phone interview.

Since when is a legislative inquiry, especially one involving the ethics of a sitting senator, decided by comparing two mere "pieces of paper"? The resolution was premature; the report cannot yet be committed into the record, its author needs Cayetano, Villar and their allies' team to play house with the rules. This doesn't sound very different from the Arroyo administration's notorious SOP.

Memory of the heart

VIEWPOINT

Jean L. Mercado

(MAGUINDANAO—"MIAS OF LAST MONTH" (Viewpoint, Jan. 14), sketched a trend sparked by Israel's Summer Missions: A month-long course to give the opportunities of Filipinos who marry to get a visa.

Ronaud Tel Aviv that President Manuel L. Quezon offered 10,000 visas and Maldonet land to Jews fleeing Nazi pre-dawnbreak, e mailed business readers Abraido Palo in Florida and Angela Cuffaro in Georgia.

After the 1908 Italian Conference Remembered, an intergovernmental Committee of Refugees rounded out countries to offer safe haven for European Jews. Many interpret their doors. "The last avenue of escape from Nazi persecution was republic Shanghai." It did not work.

But the Philippines, then a US Commonwealth, offered both visas and locus. Its late Frank Epilonio wrote in his book, "Escape to Manila: From Nazi Tyranny to Japanese Terror." Epilonio was eight when his family sought refuge in the Philippines in 1939. His 246-page book sometimes reads like synchronic accounts from 1,200 refugees saved by their visas.

World War II ended Quezon's plan to open Mindanao, noted Epilonio in "Political Obstacles to Jewish Refugee Settlement" (Oxford University Press, 2006). "The Mindanao idea" ultimately failed because its architects underestimated the extent of local opposition and complexity of land acquisition."

Mindanao is a graveside of the brave." Bene. Or even after Quezon—that Israel inaugurated the Open Doors announced at Hudson toGen Gen Organized by Filipino artist Jaime "Hamon" Lee Jr., the generous, seven-meter-high sculpture rises at the 40-hectare Holocaust Memorial Park.

"[Only] a handful are aware that Quezon shares the distinction among Righteous Gentiles," declared Lee. Jewish people in Bali remained." I, then Israeli Ambassador Ilanit Ben-Ami, Filipino color and even Chinese wedding rings, a business historian Shmuel's office got pressed. "It must stop. They must be removed from the country," Bueno daily quoted the official as saying in his memo.

The document "reflects a trend of trying to preserve marriages between Israelis and Filipinos," Puerto Galera Oriental Mindoro Pilar reiterated.

At the airport's center a Filipino Jacques Espiritu, who is a 52-year-old widower and mother of two. As a result, Espiritu was didn't by home after her partner passed away. She married, instead, Israeli Shlomo "Roger G." Jaberna Ministry officials rejected her petition for citizenship.

In contrast, Jews mourning the Holocaust got Philippine visas, Yad's studies.

"As a young kid of about six years old, I remember a Jewish bachelor whom my father befriended," Yad recalled. "He was introduced to a Filipina and they got married."

"This happened a number of times in other single Jews, my dad said. Unlike in media stories told to that Israeli official who insisted that interest parties."

"Before Schindler's List, there was another character—the Philippine visa," Yad Commemoration site in the Israeli. "That saved hundreds of Jews from the gas chambers and mass graves of the Holocaust.

Richard on the Open Door's middle floor are three sets of "footprints." They to belong to former refugees Max Mendez, George Leowinata and Ilan Ben-Ami. Others a young Filipino Israeli and granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor.

Mendez was 11 when his family found refuge in Davao City. To this day a living, his mother baked cakes which his father sold. "We came to Manila with practically nothing to wears, we found help from Filipinos," Mendez told Cassiterus. "They have an open heart. They have been very generous."

The refugees worshipped at a synagogue called Temple Beth Aloni, Tobi Asraam. Members of the street brought retired engineer Ralph Bernas to the temple of Jews, Cassiterus notes.

Born 76 and a father of four in Cassiterus, Bernas explained that his ancestor fled of Auschwitz. "If I stayed, Hitler's been killed. I'm very grateful to the Philippines for opening the doors and letting us in."

It was the late Ambassador to Israel Antonio Modesto who founded a "campaign for remembrance of the Philippines' humanitarian support for the Jews." Taking off from Epilonio's books, Modesto proposed a modest studies.

Professor JoAnn Maeve Mon Mesias, however, insisted on a major memorial. Modesto didn't see the completion of the memorial. He died of lung cancer in 2007. His name heads the Open Doors dedication plaque.

"Migration [often] gets a bad press," says the UN Human Development Report. "Negative stereotypes portray migrants as 'stealing our jobs or 'scrounging off the taxpayer.' In others, the word 'migrant' evoke images of people at their most vulnerable."

Hitler's thugs sent Jews fleeing. Today, "unconditionally unequal global distribution of opportunities" drives people to move. A thugs person can expect to live almost a generation longer than someone born in Mozambique, Sierra Leone or Niger. But migration is not a one way street," HDR says. Both born and migrant benefit, if bold rules and reforms—from regularizing of entry to promotion of dual citizenship—are adopted.

As a rabbi from whom was there the last surgeon of Shapiro found: "I was a refugee, and you took me in."

(E-mail: jeanlmercado@gmail.com)

Ban them

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"HE HAS A FELON INSTINCT" THAT SOU have a police officer described Jessie Lee after their shootout with him. "You could see it in the way his eyes blazed (unofficial). He was prepared to kill."

A criminal is by nature, the most normal one being. "You know he was determined just to be caught." But you are Lee's boss as he lay on the floor with his hands twisted behind his back, you know the police officer described it perfectly. It wasn't the killers he were that scared him a while lay on it was his eyes. Those eyes are cold. Heartless, even (mean) by drugs. Those were cold, defiant eyes, ready to remove anything in his path.

To be just like that? Did he grow up badly? Is there a loose screw in his head? Is one his childhood buddies say the product of raising the US Special Forces and being sent to Iraq a thing guaranteed to make the surest youth poisoned and contemptuous of human life, humanity dissolute only one friend and foe? Post-traumatic stress disorder is a frightening thing, and we have to wonder if we do not have to start making crime bombs in the heart of the city in the form of people who have seen combat duty in Mindanao and elsewhere coming about.

Whatever the case, Lee was an accident waiting to happen. That became the accident that was waiting to happen that was the fate of the driver of the other car and injured his wife. That became the accident that was the absence line between him and Renato Diaz Jr. Jr., when he got out of his car and coolly shot Alicia to death. That became the accident that was his trading down with the cops that came for him, turned out to "help Amerikan," determined not to be caught, or not be prize him put it, alive, armed to kill.

Question is: What in hell was he doing with all those guns?

That is not a non-sequitur or a canon. Truly you get used to seeing something, you don't notice it anymore. It doesn't strike you as odd, bizarre, or a thing that leaps out of the commonplace anymore. It becomes like the song that envelops Hitler Manila, something you see everywhere you see in footpaths or decks or on a plane or casinos. The one thing in fact that's there that you expect not to be there, that you're constantly assailed with but cannot find, is guns, guns, guns.

That was the question my sons wanted to ask MIG-CBPO exclusive clip on the street of Ilyo. The night of guns, the sound of guns, the smell, sweet and hot of guns. Except we did not smell from the sensations of them because we did not sense them. We saw only an action movie starring the cops vs. Ilyo.

It's not Chapter to allow and wondered how in hell's name Ilyo came to possess so many guns, so many more than cops. He who had a cop, he was not a soldier, he was not a security guard. Hell, he wasn't even a Filipino citizen, as Rodolfo Blanco pointed out. But he had gun salvos, one of which he lugged to his car and took out to take out another human being for no other reason than that he was pissed off by his driving.

Only a month ago, we were stunned by the same spectacle, or more, but we did not see it either. That was the caches of arms being dug out of the Ampatuans' backyard in Maguindanao. What we saw were not the guns themselves but their source, which was the AFP and as we asked only what the military troops were doing in the hands of the Ampatuans. We did not ask what the Ampatuans, notwithstanding that they were local officials, were doing hoarding such an arsenal of arms.

The arsenal included armored personnel carrier personnel carriers, mortars, and rounds and rounds of ammunition, things you see on, it is Ilyo and other war-torn countries. Later a call would issue from the bowels of this earth for patient names to be notified. No matter call would issue from the pit of this land for all the arms from Ayala to Ayala, from small to large, from puny to lethal, from being useful for murder to being perfect for massacre, to be carted off and dropped into the mouth of Mayon Volcano.

The same thing is bound to happen in the case of Ilyo. The public is bound to demand that arms case is exercised in giving people licenses to carry guns, but they fall into the hands of criminals like Ilyo. Or perhaps even less. The public might not even demand that at all; it might simply demand that people like him—and the Ampatuans, who not quite incidentally also put up a fight, or threatened to, without suffering the same fate as Ilyo—are hauled up and the key dropped into the Pacific Ocean.

Handy Pandemic uses the fact to leave his eyes to see the one thing there is there but should not be there. At least he was the first to try to do something about it with his dream of a faceless society. I don't know if that dream is entirely admirable, but I know that it's worthy. And should stop the mass flood of unacceptable like "Order" into these shores. The only thing worse than a country not being able to feed its people hates is a country not being able to feed its populations while being able to arm it.

The same thing is bound to happen to people do is ethnic. If Ilyo had only his fists with him when he met Rhodie, Rhodie would still be alive. The most sober citizen is prone to road rage, carrying many other cops he is prone to commit crimes, and he better than he unbeknownst with cause that is not to his liking. Come-of-life brain worse than drugs. Pit-bulls-type you can only hunt yourself, not others. Might as well say steak doesn't kill, people do. Fewer does courage and absolute power absolutely, and somebody does power made more absolutely than on the hand with the gun. A problem that's not going away, with an immediate solution, very get and finish, with a country to satisfy in the proliferation of crime cells does a body 'eh' used books, not guns.

Buy the book, ban the guns.

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No permanent alliances

THE LINE TO MEDIA OF THE SENATE IMPEACHMENT court was super endearing for plenary debates the majority's call to consider Sen. Manny Villar for alleged violations of ethics and the anti-graft law in connection with the U.S. recession project was emotionally tensed to her headliner in this area, somehow nervous are being confirmed on voter choice for the presidency. It was clearly meant to stop Villar from whittling down further the 8 point lead of his key rival Sen. Noynoy Aquino.

But 24 months to the June 10 election might upend this draft report on candidates in the coming election, two of them for the presidency, speak volumes. To do its mind-bible. Not tradition, if "order" Villar to retain some P6.2 billion stock the government spent on the Philippine Overseas Employer, her Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile himself admitted that collecting this amount is impossible. Obviously it was merely meant to squeeze with votes in this season, where a candidate has to score high to undergo to bag funding for his campaign.

* * *

Recent developments on the Villar issue merely reveal that opposition there are no permanent alliances, only personal interests. The case of Villar and Enrile, both of the same party, is a case in illustrative. Sen. Francis Pangilinan had fought long and hard with the minority against the rules drawn up by the new majority after Enrile's takeover of the Senate in November 2008. But Enrile has now become a staunch defender Villar in the Wednesday Club. Now he admits to following the "official mand" of the Liberal Party, confirming the politicization of this issue. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada signed the Nov. 17, 2008 resolution to create the impeachment court. Now Jinggoy is on the other side, reportedly after Enrile, who heads Joseph Estrada's senatorial ticket, talked to Engr. Erwin Tieng, Estrada's brother-in-law. Sen. Pia Cayetano, Miguel Zubiri, Lito Lapid and Ramon Revilla signed the senatorial support. Is it so remote that JDV signed with the Palace?

* * *

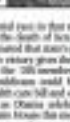
In Massachusetts, Republican candidate Scott Brown defeated Democrat candidate Martha Coakley in yesterday's senatorial race in that state, to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Ed Kennedy who had dominated that state's politics but half a century. Brown's victory gives the Republicans their 41st seat in the 100-member US Senate. This means the Republicans could block President Obama's crucial health care bill and other significant legislation. Then, as Obama celebrates his first anniversary in the White House this month, he many Americans his "No, we can" message that finally resonated to the people who chose him now turned to "No, we can't," as one pundit put it. This should make it rather how our Senate president pro tempore who joined hope without foundation in 2010 hilly could easily be described two to one than.

* * *

The sudden passing of Press Secretary Cerge Remonde is mourned by his friends and bus alike, including some of President Macapagal-Arroyo's most valued critics, principally because he was a thoroughly decent person who harbored no ill will toward anyone. I have my own memories of him in the course of our long interaction in media and warm friendship. This Sunday, a group of his close friends will gather close to him by way of our own remembrance we were first GMA presidents Emilie Abueva and I on June at 6 p.m. We hope it will be a source of comfort to his widow, Marti. This Saturday, too, abortive lawyer Romeo Macalintal will air over his "love" radio program on DzRH, 594 AM. Jesse Robredo, then person of popular American poet James J. Metcalfe who was published widely in the 1940s and 1950s in the US. Cerge said there, plus a love poem for Marti, will show in the whole setting of his last fun. 11, 2009 replaced with light colored

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayan



Power or money?

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MOST OBSERVERS IDENTIFY THE PRIZE BEFORE the 2010 campaign as being the palace prize in November 2008, when Manuel Villar Jr. snagged the Senate presidency rather than be deposed by his peers. Other possible presidential contenders had to deprive Villar of a position traditionally seen as a springboard to the presidency, and so they did.

It was false if that made Manuel Villar's presidential dreams a realistic ambition. Whether or not he entered the House of Representatives in 1992 with more modest ambitions, in 1998 he was able to immediately begin running for president, as the national branding tools to foster dreams of reigning were lighter.

As speaker starting on July 27, 1998, Villar had power but lacked the kind of popular standing a presidential candidate needed. He began to have a chance of leaving further up the political totem pole if he had barely survived the speakership when he got mired in controversy on Aug. 17, 1998 after they labor troops, his most avowed line of support, were caught in a government standoff and ended up breaking or breaking the law his private gain. His 1993 net satisfaction ratings started at +22 in September 1998, then ranged from +11 to +38 from January 1999 to October 1999, then +3 to +11 in December 1999, and regressed to +2 to March 2000.

Speakers may be powerful, but they tend to be hardly unpopular in national terms, in large part because they are known only in their districts, and are viewed with unwedding patronage out of the presidents whom have makes possible their office. When he did a Pearl Harbor on President Joseph Estrada, Villar's highest net satisfaction rating of +42 was already behind him, recorded in July 2000, and marginally lower than the net satisfaction of +46 that de Venecia Jr. enjoyed at the height of his popularity in June 1997. He was deposed from the speakership but took advantage of every opportunity to keep a high profile during Erap. He became prepared himself for the public eye as was being manhandled by Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Haiti's history of slavery and bravery

DESPITE SO MANY DEVASTATING DISASTERS' down of Haiti, this country whose capital city is no more because of last week's deadly earthquakes, has produced remarkable individuals that shone in the field of art, music and literature. Right now when I think Haiti, I think reggae, too.

Last month, before the great destruction in Port-au-Prince, journalist Jed Dreyfuss who is of Haitian origin and who calls himself a "diasporan," wrote for The Haitian Times an article titled "A sign of world" which he said "Haiti is the country that will be called "The Phoenix" to describe Haiti. And that is "the poorest nation in the western hemisphere." (Sorry, I have to report it here.)

Sure enough, when I opened my Time magazine that arrived a few days after the Jan. 12 earthquake, there was the article, "The Phoenix" was there. Time's scary story ("Haiti's Agony") was about the earthquake that is believed to have killed at least 100,000 Haitians and foreign nationals working there. On the first paragraph. It is the second sentence of the story as story. "Tragedy has a way of visiting those who can least it least. Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere."

Indeed. "The Phoenix" has become a boilerplate, a sentence in the prepositive paragraph in articles about Haiti.

Strom Thurmond. "The phrase still grates with us because it also denies so much of the island Haiti: art, art, and resistance. Haiti's history is remarkable indeed. It denies the humanity of humans, the capacity to survive, to overcome, even to triumph over this poverty—a historical experience we share with so many other countries in the developing world."

Imagine, if in articles about the Philippines there would always be the boilerplate sentence that says, "The most corrupt country in Southeast Asia" or, as was Hong Kong's retort, "a nation of servants."

When Dreyfuss was a child growing up, he was a Brigade Scout organization who "The Phoenix" was always in her stories, she journeyed that even though she did not put it there, her editors always did.

What Dreyfuss said is instructive to journalists

YOUNG BLOOD

Alvin D. Garcia

Trina

"YOU STILL LIKE HER," A FRIEND ASKED ME.

"I don't know," I replied. "But it's as if a flame which had late dormant suddenly ignited when I saw her. I felt as if I were 13 years old again."

My friend and I were talking shortly after a small group from our grade school batch had a reunion of sorts. The get-together came about because of Cathy, my girl best friend in fifth grade. Recently,

she had called to announce that she was getting married to her German boyfriend.

I had no hard feelings about that. She was and still is—my friend. When we were in fifth grade, we did everything together. During lunch breaks, we

We talked for hours on end on the phone and raced each other to class. She was a chubby girl then. Years later she would tell me she had a big crush on me.

It was during the seventh of December that I saw her again. I was reminded of Thalia in "Martinez" and the lyrics of a song by Eraserheads: "Madyo pangit ka pa non, ngunit ngayon ay..."

Cathy had called me from Singapore to tell me she was planning to invite old classmates for lunch where she would announce her wedding. I suggested that we hold it on a Sunday, any rainy day off.

When the day finally came, more people came than we expected. There were Mae (still talkative), Anna (still silent), and Lynne (still petite as ever). There was Jaime and Diego, my best friends then and the people I consider my "kindred spirits." And finally there was Jennifer, Jaime's long lost love.

I asked Jennifer, who had become thin, do focus on pictures of the first reunion of our batch, who else was coming.

"Trina," she said.

My stomach did a double turn, but I put up a good front.

Karina. Every boy's crush in grade school, and she knew it and basked in the glow. Wherever she walked down the corridor, hearts fluttered. Every other girl wanted to be in her good graces. Whether she was playing patintero with the other girls was such a delight for us boys.

One time our adviser asked the class to write the names of people he or she considered as friends. When the names were tallied, Trina got the highest number among the girls, and I was the other boys. We were branded "stars of the class."

Back in the canteen. The original plan was to eat at Jaime's grill but the place was jam-packed. We ended up at Mae's restaurant.

We had one hell of a time. We talked about the good old days, about who among our classmates already had kids of their own, about who went to this reunion, etc. Jaime, who was appointed secretary-general in our PTA and is something of a celebrity, brought pictures of our grade school days. I forgot an opposition of movie director Maribel Diaz Abaya who for a few indie films to his credit, did a stand-up comedy act which I later joined in.

Then the conversation around the table took an embarrassing turn. "Let's get gory," someone suggested. "Let's reveal who our crush was."

Everybody knew who was the apple of Jaime's eye then. He even brought out a letter and read it, to our amusement. It was so smooth, letter to transfer, which Jaime kept for more than a decade. Jaime is fond of keeping mementos, a trait I wish I had.

When it was my turn to make a confession, I said Trina was my crush. Nobody was surprised. I knew all eyes would be on me the moment she arrived.

When Jennifer announced that Trina was due to arrive any minute, I made a chase of my mortem, with trembling hands holding a spoon and fork, clinking them against a plate. Terrorist signal. Then, I whispered how I would greet her: I would hold her hands, look into her eyes, and say "Sister, how beautiful you are!"

When she finally arrived, Trina did not disappoint anyone. She was still as beautiful as when we last saw each other as third-graders. Maybe more beautiful and mature.

Then the others started urging me to make my confession "so there would be closure." I stood up, and everyone was cheering me on.

"Trina," I said while reading the last hand I'd the first time in 14 years), "you were my crush then."

She blushed (was that a hint that the feeling was mutual?). When the cheers died down, she opened a plate. Surprise signal!

Let next president select the next chief justice

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE looming issue of appointing Chief Justice Reynato Puno's successor when he retires on May 17 this year.

Allies of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are telling us in private what the position of chief justice be filled as soon as Puno retires—to prevent what they call a vacuum, leading the Supreme Court to the deputy presidential spokesman Gary Olivar who said that his boss wouldn't like the vacuum would serve the "interest to none."

Rep. Hilario Davide Jr., another Arroyo ally and member of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) which is tasked with screening candidates for the judiciary urges his fellow JBC members to come up with a list of candidates to replace Puno.

Lower rulers has this: women, robust advocates are often rated much more likely to ask respect to the lowest levels in popularity ratings, from working for the same

[illegible] since Day 1 of her presidency she has been busy orientating, in all cases and in all senses, her bold cat-power. We have seen how the character of efforts to remove her from the presidency, which most of us believe she did not honestly win. We now see how she wants to ensure in power (in power) herself from power (a matter more or less optional) or even by a position of influence, so to lead old governance in whatever way. She is now creating for a "body" congressional seat to her home province in the hope of staying in power for as long as she wants.

All the people I talked to during my month-long Philippine holiday described her obsession and lust for power in the most unprintable words. I have ever heard coll of a politician. The words were aimed at her because she has degraded the Office of the President by running for a position much lower than the one she currently occupies.

And now the end [illegible] her sycophants—some that she appoints Chief Justice Reynato Puno's successor is complete her perceived control of the highest court of the land.

By the time Arroyo (hopefully) leaves office on June 30, 2010 all members of the Supreme Court are her appointees.

Revised assistant justice, commissioner Ferdie Mendiola and Commission on Elections chairman Jose Melo believe that Ms Arroyo should not appoint Puno's successor.

While we do not want to imply that we, some, more or all the present Supreme Court justices would subserviently hold an umbrella for GMA and act as she bids them, we strongly believe that the appointment of the next chief justice should be left to whoever succeeds as president on July 1, 2010.

—RAMON MAYO, JR.
ramayo@aol.com

Quiapo fiesta falls on June 24 not in January

IT IS WRONG TO REFER AT THE ANNUAL celebration honoring the Black Nazarene on January 9 as the "Quiapo fiesta." The correct reference or name for "Feast of the Black Nazarene."

Quiapo celebrates its fiesta on June 24 of every year in honor of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of Quiapo church. But, due to say the Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda are usually deserted on that day.

—ELIGIO M. BAUTISTA,
Barangay Ilaya,
Cooperativa, Marikina City

DOJ on trial in Maguindanao massacre case

THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ARE CARefully watching the acquittance of the Department of Justice on the way it is prosecuting the Maguindanao massacre.

The court hearing the Maguindanao massacre should give the court top priority and conduct a "marathon trial" to demonstrate to the [illegible] of the victims' relatives for "instant justice."

The death penalties should be one of the all those who were behind this heinous crime—the masterminds and their cartel-on dole. They have no place on Earth; they cannot be considered human beings; they are demons and I cannot all of them must go to hell, their final destination.

The Filipino people are doubtful to President Macapagal-Arroyo but has done even not to give the desperately special economics line to raise them to concern in the case of the Ampatuan clan involved the gruesome killings believed to have been committed by them.

—JENNIFER M. MARQUEZ,
Puerto Princesa,
Palawan

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CPP-NPA has strict policy vs marijuana

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO MAL RICARDO Julio C. Oasis II's letter assuring the CPP-NPA of involvement in the illegal drug trade. ("The army chief is the CPP-NPA," Inquirer, 1/13/10). To prop up his claim, he cited the alleged discovery of multi-million tree plantations in the Bicol-Cordillera region.

The CPP-NPA maintains a strict policy against the use, cultivation and trafficking of marijuana and against the manufacturing and sale of other illegal drugs. Any violation of this strict policy will be severely punished.

Some poor peasants in the Bicol-Cordillera region are forced to plant and sell marijuana as a quick fix for their poverty and the dearth of social services. All BDA units and CPP members in the region discourage this practice. We would rather, for several decades now, we have been launching economic programs to provide alternative and sustainable livelihood, and conducting propaganda and education campaign to dissuade peasants in the cultivating marijuana.

On the other hand, investigative officers of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines themselves encourage, provide materials and protect marijuana farmers in the Bicol-Cordillera region. It is an open secret, especially among peasants in Bicol-land barangays, that marijuana seeds are provided by military and police personnel, that [illegible] marijuana buyers in the region are able to conduct business because of military or police protection, [illegible] It has become a lingering rumor here that the police and military often raid marijuana farms which the plants are ready for market, are relocated or sell seedlings that can be easily uprooted and destroyed. The raids aren't actually meant to eradicate and destroy the marijuana plants—rather they are means for the farmers and quasi-managers of the marijuana-abused military battalions. One of the larger plantations of growing men in the region can be found in Mt. Quezon-hill in Tagkawa, Aldaga. The area is maintained by the Guerrillero People's Liberation Army in coalition with the AFP.

Crooked PNP and AFP officers gain from the marijuana trade in several ways. They earn protections and incentives through their chain raids, they enforce guidelines rules, and they receive protection money from marijuana dealers.

The great danger is not the revolutionary movement. The great danger is the fact that Philippine politics is dominated by warlord-politicians funded by logging and mining firms that destroy the environment, and by drug trafficking and drug lords who wreak havoc on our youth's future. Using the NPA as a convenient whipping box for the crimes committed by warlord politicians, with AFP and PNP complicity, is a tactic meant to divert people's troubles. How can the arms, ammunition and raw material found in the possession of the proponents of this hoax-like Magnificence massacre clearly from the AFP and PNP?

—ARMEN MONTOYA,
northsea.net@gmail.com

First White House presidential wedding

GROVER CLEVELAND (1858 AND 1908) president of the United States, at age 49, married Frances Folsom, aged 22, on June 2, 1886. He was the first White House presidential wedding. (This would happen in Jesa. No one Aquino-Zaid is there he becomes the 15th president of the Philippines.)

The heaviest and unpredictable about Cleveland sounds me as a major president in the Gilded Age. Many historians have praised Cleveland for his courage, honesty, significance, self-direction and common sense. It is, in a varying sense, a mass of character that Cleveland [illegible] to be.

Grover Cleveland was one of the rare US presidents who did not go to college.

—PAUL E. MORELL,
MBLA Court (Makati), Marikina City

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Writers of letters to the editor are required to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The [illegible] will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Massacre video: Lawyers throw up, walk out

From page A1

room of the motel had first been converted into a conference for Ampatuan's murder trial presided over by Quezon City Judge Jocelyn Josie Reyes.

Some reporters sensed soon that the lawyers' meeting on a Thursday—the prosecutors presiding the entrance of the new room and Reyes had ordered thrown up.

"Yes, the lawyers really wanted," a young female officer said when Reporter left. "The police chief things up immediately so that lawyers no signs of this visit."

Stomach-turning

Reyes returned to the courtroom and the trial of the century resumed without delay. Until dusk, participating purchasers and looking dilated and exhausted.

He told reporters outside the courtroom that his stomach burned upon seeing footage of body parts being dug up from the backyard of the Ampatuans.

"I had to rush to the bathroom because I threw up. I had dusky felt sick after seeing the video. Rather than make a scene of myself, I left," Reyes said.

"I couldn't take the gory images. I was sick to my stomach. I told the photographer of the reviews, but seeing the bodies on the video was different. Only the devil could do such a gruesome crime."

Asked to describe what he saw, he said: "Human parts, not really pieces or melodrama like putting vampire and stuff."

Reyes said his clients had also been advised by a psychologist not to attend the hearing to save them the pain of seeing the video of their murdered kin.

"I am sure they understood why they should not believe," he said.

Prosecution lawyers played five 90-minute videos taken at the scene by Sultan Kudarat-based photographer Jerry Denoman in an effort to prove their opposition to bail for Ampatuans.

The first one was taken on Nov. 24, a day after the mass murder, and the second on Nov. 25.

The videos showed police and detectives and concerned civilians digging up the bodies of the 57 victims—mostly women and journalists believed to have been shot by suspected rebel hitmen.

Before Reyes left, another private lawyer walked out of the courtroom about 40 minutes into the first video.

Datumin Dipatuan's father and sister were among the 57 civilians who joined the convoy of Genalin Mangudadatu on her way to file the certificate of candidacy for governor of her home province, Buluan Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu.

The convoy was allegedly blocked by Ampatuan's men and the 57 people were eventually shot dead.

Dipatuan said it was too difficult for her to watch the videos with images of the bloodbath.

Adjectives

Denoman, photographer of the Sultan Kudarat planning development office, said he made two copies each of both videos and gave a set each to Gov. Suharto Mangudadatum and Datu Zaldy Ampatuan, the governor of Maguindanao.

Just before the brief video was played before Judge Reyes, an opponent erupted between State Prosecutor Jose Pedro Marvez and defense lawyer Sigfrid Fortun, with the latter objecting to Marvez's use of the words "gruesome" and "gory" in describing the videos.

Fortun said it was up to the court to say if such adjectives could be used to describe the videos and that like words in the clashed in the court's transcripts, could influence the opinion later.

He also asked that the words recorded in the videos be audited to eliminate all statements and speculations of the persons shown.

"I do not want that the credence of gangs and gangs [in the videos]," Fortun exclaimed.

Said the judge: "Can we close the curtains first."

Body parts

Gravesite filled the courtroom as the video showing newspaper-covered corpses scattered around Ecto orchards was played on a projector provided by the Department of Justice.

When the bloodied face of a dead woman was flashed on screen, lawyer Dipatuan was looking distressed and was led to their other women away from the projector.

She stayed five minutes more before she left the room. Lawyer Dipatuan told reporters she would not go back to see Denoman's second video because she had gotten word from it was "gory."

At one point, the video showed the body of a man clad in a green shirt and denims being pulled out of the mass grave.

The left eye, subtle still visible, was blown out of its socket. There was no hair left and the right side of the face, along with the nose and mouth, was mostly blown off.

The next scene showed a woman wearing yellow green pants, and underwear and a green shirt, her right hand on her chest and her left on the bloodied portion of the left thigh.

It was at this point that Harper rushed out.

Chewing gum

Ampatuan, mayor of Datu Unsay Maguindanao, was also emotionless and seemed to be chewing gum while the images were shown on a wide screen.

When a gold watch on the wrist of a man was shown, Ampatuan, he pressed firmly at the screen as if trying to make out the details.

The silverware made by the people caught on video were dressed by the combat forces of the brothers sued by the Philippine Marines. Others are some of the crime operations floor.

Two bulldozers were seen on a video.

The first from the markings "acquired under the administration of Andal Ampatuan Jr., the governor," and the second from Shaddilyan incumbent of the province of Maguindanao.

The prosecution is expected to use this equipment as evidence against the principal suspect.

The second backhoe, provided by the provincial government, was used to dig up the bodies. Denomanbrand both pulls appeared every time this backhoe closed a portion of the ground.

In the gallery, a woman, crying, I don't watched. "Idiotcracy [sic] and Corruption" remained and turned her head away when the video showed a close

From page A1

up of the victims' faces.

Victim ID

His face recognized, Maguindanao was able to identify the victims recovered from the mass.

He said the corpse dressed in a red shirt and denims, with a badly bruised face and other scorned to be a gaping neck wound, was that of journalist Andy Tesalona.

"I frequently saw him in the [Andres Bonifacio] capital where there were several interviews held there," Ampatuan said.

He was also able to identify Reyes lawyers of radio station dxBM in the second video where he is in the field.

Demanded Fortun: "How can you identify him when the face of the corpse is not seen?"

Ampatuan replied that Amanda's shirt with wide stripes and denims to find because the broadcaster wore it often on the capital.

The second video the ground-up effects of the force to dig out three vehicles—marked beyond recognition, and which were buried along with the victims.

There included a red Toyota Vios subject to the ID of one Rose Bukay was recovered, a white service vehicle of cattle were obtained LSBTX and a mobile blue Tamaraw FX.

Judge Reyes ordered a five-minute recess after the prosecution played the video ended at about 2:20 p.m.

Grilling

As in the previous hearing, Reyes questioned the credibility and perceived bias of the witnesses whose testimonies during the two-hour cross-examination.

Before she grilled thirteen-member transporting by hand a dismembered boy from the excavation site to the area where the corpses were collected.

Reyes also asked to know to public offices some Ph 2 billion recently representing provincial administrators for the road this year.

Control of canvass board

Enrile, who proposed the report as chair of the committee of the whole, said the alleged Ejercito signature in the Senate president.

Enrile said he had gathered from reliable sources that the ULP, he camp had already prepared a resolution seeking his ouster.

"Now, Lito Lapid was one of those who signed it," Enrile said, adding that this was probably the reason why the other senators could not get in touch with Lapid yesterday.

Lapid was also one of those who voted to oust Estrada in 2001.

Miriam Defensor Santiago, who chaired the committee on public order and dangerous drugs, said she is "disappointed" with Lapid's decision.

"I'm very disappointed with Lapid. I thought I could put [my] confidence in him," she said.

Santiago said Lapid's vote is in fact, Aris Gonzales "Sonia" Madrigal, who is also running for president to blast us as independent. Madrigal filed an ethics complaint against Villar over the C-5 issue.

The last witness presented Villar last year on Madrigal's allegations that he was behind the double-booking of the P200-million C-5 project as well as the acquisition of the road for the benefit of his real estate properties in the areas of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

It accommodated his company purportedly for engaging in improper and unethical behavior, among others, when he failed to disclose a conflict of interest to

Enrile-Villar senate faceoff in suspended animation

From page A1

small course Senate president.

Enrile said the Villar camp wanted to replace him because Villar "does not have the votes to the canvassing of votes for president and vice president, it seems the man sitting there [is] but a man controlled by Senator Villar."

He was referring to Cayetano, referring to a national canvassing board that would declare the winner of the Palace race.

"They want their man to be Senate president at one time is failure of the floor, to be used by the canvass," Enrile added.

Enrile said he was present in the afternoon with enough power in attendance to transact the day's business, but left the plenary hall shortly afterwards to hold a press conference at his office office.

Villar did not show up for the session, choosing to hold court—and his own press conference—instead. Enrile's office was the media for the day.

With both protagonists out of sight, the other senators left the session hall one by one, prompting a suspension of proceedings. The hall gradually emptied of the tense atmosphere.

Apparently to get back at Villar, who may now have sided with Villa, Enrile also announced he would order a reshuffle of committees. Villar's committee—which's just two weeks left before Congress adjourns and the committee chairmanships are normally also kicked off.

Should Villar's allies succeed in blocking deliberations on the committee report pinning him down on the C-5 issue, Enrile said he would bring it up with the people during the campaign period.

For the second day in a row, lack of quorum prevented the Senate committee from tackling the report by the Senate committee of the whole which recommended Villar's censure over the road project issue.

In response to Enrile's allegations, Villar flatly denied the charges.

"That's wrong. There are lots of coup rumors whenever adjournment draws near. Some ethics motions are about to begin. That's very normal. I should have known I need to be focusing and not distracted," he said in Filipino. (See related story on Page A17.)

An outside Enrile ally, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, confirmed that an attempt to remove the Senate president was in the offing and that it was provoked by Enrile's resolve to have the report discussed.

"It's a coup d'etat in the making. I can smell it in," Santiago said of the coup attempt against Enrile.

Santiago, who is seeking reelection, is a good candidate of Villar's party. She previously supported Enrile's bid for the Senate presidency in the 16th Congress (2008), when he ousted Villar.

The feisty senator confirmed that she and Villa allies have coined the session the other day because they felt that Villar "is not going to get justice from this kind of [Senate] proceedings."

She simply stated some just to read a message that we do not believe that there would be any conditions of credibility if one presidential candidate [still-

ning a case against another presidential candidate and we are also politicized in this chamber, including myself," she said.

Santiago said Villar's strategy is fair, Aris Gonzales "Sonia" Madrigal, who is also running for president to blast us as independent. Madrigal filed an ethics complaint against Villar over the C-5 issue.

The last witness presented Villar last year on Madrigal's allegations that he was behind the double-booking of the P200-million C-5 project as well as the acquisition of the road for the benefit of his real estate properties in the areas of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

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1990 quake survivor in Cabanatuan dies in Haiti

From page A1

Pearly is coming home—in a coffin

By Julie S. Alipala
Reporter Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"LET HER finish this house once I come home." Manuela Benaguit quoted her daughter is saying.

Sister Gray, a graduate of medicine who is unemployed, said Pearly was determined to get the house finished.

"She knows the design. Her plan was to build an American design house," Lydy said.

Pearly will soon be home in a coffin.

The day she found out that her daughter was gone, she could not sleep. It was already 4 a.m. Tuesday and she asked her son Jonathan to turn the TV on.

Manuela heard the news as she listened to a newsflash that reminded like "Pearl"—the name of her daughter moving was exactly a month in quake-devastated Haiti.

Then power went out.

When electricity was restored, she heard no one was home. Manuela became more dejected.

There Jonas knew she received the grim news that Pearly had been found dead.

"I had been nervous. Then Pearly's classmates and friends came and told me the bad news," she said.

'Bitter gift'

Manuela, still in disbelief, said it was a more difficult to accept.

"Pearly told me [in Haiti], but I to wait for her. She said she was coming home. She told the family would not be complete if one member was not present," Manuela said.

"She gave her life. That's her gift to me. It is a bitter gift—she's coming home dead."

Promise will be kept

Manuela said Pearly made her proud.

"She always kept her promise. She pledged that she would come home one day or one family would be complete again. She will fulfill it," she said.

Pearly was a model artist who made sure her siblings finished schooling, Manuela said. She and her daughter also wanted to finish the building of their house.

Together again

The Principal siblings at least find comfort in the thought that their ordeal is now probably with her devoted husband, Erwin Gray, also a soldier.

"They're probably together now," Lotty said.

Reba Cesar's death during an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu in 2007 was one reason Pearly signed up to become a United Nations peacekeeper in Haiti.

"Her loss of love inspirited hurt her so much. That had planned to get married this April," Lotty said.

"She said it was good to be away because she could stop thinking," Lotty continued. Supposed to have been married to Erwin Gray. She did not want to remember him because it was painful," she said.

Manuela broke into tears at the thought of her lost fourth.

"I'll get my daughter and have her buried here in Zamboanga City," she said.

Upon learning of his death, Benaguit's only had collected interviews and holed herself up in the family's house in Barangay Mampang in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

"She agreed to speak to the [a quake in Haiti. Therefore no one] and no [she] responsible [Please forgive me. I can't go on talking anymore]," Ruby Jean said.

Ruby Jean last talked with her husband on Jan. 11, a day ahead of the calamity.

Deputy, along with Espel, in Haiti, Ayen, representatives of the Philippine police contingent, and Francisco Bagadiong, leader of the Filipino community in Haiti, met with Philippine Ambassador to Cuba Minchi Bue Zamora to discuss the status of relief distribution and the possible repatriation of Filipino workers.

Task force for repatriation

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said that a task force is already in place to help the victims' relatives in Haiti.

Specifically, the task force would help the Filipinos avail of U.S. State temporary to other parts of the impoverished Caribbean country.

Abroad with Filipinos are staying in Haiti. Some of them are working as managers in the garments, telecommunications and power generation sectors, while the rest are nurses, priests, family members and volunteers of Filipinos who settled in Haiti and married local residents.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. said those who want to leave would not try land from Haiti to Puerto to South Dominican Republic, and take an flight to Canada.

He said the task force would issue travel documents to those without passports or had expired passports. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

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Villar twits detractors: Where did you get ₱6.2-B price tag?

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. MANUEL VILLAR YESterday teased the lobbies on his detractors, accusing the Senate minority of coming up with a figure on the amount spent by the government for the road link of the C-5 road project.

Villar asked how the Senate majority, which completed the committee of the whole, arrived at the ₱6.2 billion price tag.

"I really don't know where is it these dreams they got the ₱6 billion—that's only ₱200 million," said Villar in a press conference.

He reconfirmed what he should return to the government when he was not paid in full.

Committee Report No. 760, signed by 12 senators but has not yet been reported out in plenary for adoption due to the continued lack of quorum, recommended the cancelation of Villar for allegedly engaging in "tax-project and councilor conduct."

At least three members removed from his lobbyist to declare a conflict of interest in his role in the alleged re-routing of the C-5 link road, which passes through his real estate in Las Piñas City.

The report also asked Villar to resign to the government ₱6.2 billion, constituting nearly ₱200 million projects.

Told that 12 senators had already signed the committee report, Villar said he was not consulted at all because he had not participated in the proceedings.

Premeditated

"That's why at the outset, the minority did not participate in the committee hearings because we knew we had expected that the inquiry was in fact concluded right from the start," he said.

He added that committee decision was premeditated and politically motivated.

"It's clear that these are all biased against me. But I'm thinking it runs that the allegations are a big lie."

He said he had already answered every allegation.

"It's on the internet. We have a website. I've been distributing [pamphlets containing my] answers to the C-5 controversy[.] I have no idea."

Villar maintained that the C-5 road project was a "beautiful project," which drastically benefit six million Filipinos living in Las Piñas, Paranaque and some Cavite towns.

He said the road link from Las Piñas to Paranaque runs the least segment of the C-5 project, which was envisioned as early as the term of President Ferdinand Marcos.

He said the road link was not actually his pet project but that of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Favorable witnesses

On the alleged double standard, he said:

"This issue keeps on resurfacing, but I have already answered that there was no double standard. He has than five former presidents said that this is a beautiful project," he said.

He pointed out that the complainant's own witness, Willy Dolfelan, a staff of the former budget office, had attested to the fact that there was no double standard.

"So, I'm baffled why when the report came out, this was not mentioned," he said.

Because the Senate minority had chosen to avoid the inquiry the committee was the only one meeting the witnesses, he said.

'Witnesses say I did no wrong'

"However, no one among the witnesses they had called said that I was at fault. Mrs. Lolo of DPWH said there was no irregularities. Actually, Mrs. Bernal said definitely there was no corruption. And when asked if she would stick with the same report if called to resume it, she said 'Yes. I've found no evidence, the truth that I did nothing wrong,' he said.

"So it is a shock to us [in the Senate majority] that suddenly I'm guilty and they [the committee] were invested in unanimously," he added.

Villar said he was willing to answer all the questions. "They said that I don't want to answer. I'm tired of repeatedly answering their questions. I even allowed myself to be interviewed by an ambush so that my answers to the C-5 controversy can be viewed [on TV]. I've been granting interviews ... Imagine the C-5 issue to the media. I showed them that there are two [parallel] roads."

Wife: Cerge 'crisis of credibility' began with ₱1-M NY dinner

From page A1

collected her thoughts and replied: "I believe we made the most out of our lives."

She said that for the past nine years, she and her husband never missed any of the major activities of his work in Pebble Group.

"He was the driver in that people didn't believe that anymore," she said of Buenaseda, who runs a longtime broadcasting before joining the Arroyo administration in 2001.

She added that her husband had planned to join a Manila newspaper at the end of Ms Arroyo's historic term.

Her husband's account, Buenaseda was initially "very excited" about his new job, which she said he got in February 2009 without the help of public connections.

But things turned sour in August when the President and her spouse were reported seeing separate Yankee ballgames in Florida by a dancer at a French restaurant in New York.

Days later, another story came out alleging that Ms Arroyo and company had spent around ₱700,000 for a dinner at a swank house in Manhattan.

Cake Zero

March said Buenaseda tried his best to defend the President against these rumors but had to put the issues in the proper perspective. She said he was puzzled why had ever the New York episode because the purported splurge was simply "not true."

"That's when it all started. He really felt bad about it. He felt he was not believed," she recalled, sobbing.

"I was told that when the story came out and he said, 'But it was [Lester Ray Martin] Fernandez who drinked at ... Others [said] wine but we had Coke Zero.' He thought it was no big deal."

Since then, Buenaseda "had no recruitment anymore" about his job, March said.

"He said that no matter what he said, it would still come out negative. He noticed that he was not really smiling so much ... He was not really so happy anymore. But I think he was also to tired ... He was not getting enough rest," she said.

Buenaseda also submitted to cardiac arrest on Tuesday.

In what proved to be his final visit to his home province of Cebu for the Sinulog festival last weekend, his wife noticed that he had forgotten to bring his medicine, March said.

She said it indicated that Buenaseda had lost his eagerness to give interviews, unlike during his first few months as a press secretary.

'Great guy'

With Buenaseda's image as a leading Arroyo defender, March said the same should be remembered for "who he really was."

"Cerge Buenaseda was a great guy. He was [a] religious [man] in a true sense[.] Not known him. He was brilliant. He was very hard-working. He was not humble," she said. "Whatever he accomplished, he accomplished that on his own."

One of the reporters who came to the wake later remember, March described her husband as a hard-working fellow who spent his working hours attending to various tasks at the Office of the Press Secretary and sometimes even on Facebook, his second-favorite hobby.

She said that during the holidays, she helped him unwind software for his antivirus, which allowed him to upload pictures of the usual network slideshow.

She recalled telling him that he wasn't getting enough rest but that he "insisted that he needed only four to five hours of sleep."

"He's very ambitious. He's very enthusiastic," she said when asked about her husband's best qualities.

When asked if Buenaseda had shown signs of a deteriorating condition, March said she could not tell although he had noticed to be smiling less lately.

She said that despite his new holding Buenaseda seemed to be feeling the pressures of work.

She said his friends phoned to assure her that the office was his big heart.

"I remember not sleeping that night," Mum said of the day Buenaseda broke his service to her.

But she would be him anyway, she said, adding that while the President was "not perfect," she is from it that the two had some.

Mum said Ms Arroyo's trip to Copenhagen last year was the only time she joined the president-elect last outing.

She said she and her husband had planned to spend family time together on the flight to her native Bonanza, and that he also had time to be acquainted with his family.

On other occasions, it was not very fortunate, March said. Buenaseda would sometimes work on Facebook, his second-favorite hobby.

She said that during the holidays while he was out of town on official business.

There were also times when they were unable to celebrate a wedding anniversary—although, she quickly said, she was not really particular about dates.

What happened was, "we grabbed the opportunity [to be] together," she said.

What's next?

March said her husband died on suddenly that she was at a loss what to do.

"I really don't know. I really have no idea," she told reporters who wanted to know what her plans were.

She said Mr Arroyo had also asked her about the matter.

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March said she was thinking of returning to Bacolod—but may be not yet, she added, given the inclement weather in Europe.

She recalled that the last activities with Buenaseda had with Christmas Eve dinner, after she asked him what they would do after Ms Arroyo's term officially ends.

"He told me, 'We'll leave it up to God,'" she said.

Former President Fidel Ramos visited the wake to offer condolences to the widow.

He was followed by Ms Arroyo's chief of staff Jose Ong, Jr. and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ong said Buenaseda was a "great guy" who was "very helpful" in his work.

Ermita said Buenaseda was "very dedicated" to his work.

Buenaseda's remains are now lying in state at the Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City, Ermita said.

The President spent 10 minutes talking with Mum about the near-duty hour.

Asked by reporters what they talked about, Ms Arroyo said "All the usual comments that you would say to a widow. I only [a few] times in Hong Kong ... to [see the Chinese] countries."

She said it was unemployment because the economy was boosted after last latter, Noli.

Mum also said, "We worked our good times in Hong Kong when we celebrated his birthday."

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Buenaseda otherwise told reporters that he grew up without a father and his mother supported him, he hung a portrait of the latter in his office as the first

Erich Segal, 72: Never ever say sorry for 'Love Story'

From page A1

lovers and screenplay writer when he turned a proposed movie about two college students—guppy Oliver and mean-mother Jenny—into a novel.

Published in 1970, "Love Story" was a weepie about a young couple who fall in love, marry and discover she is dying of cancer. It was a million seller gone-adored to make readers cry and critics scorn.

It made Segal an instant celebrity. He was nominated for an Oscar and was nominated for six others, like the story of a wealthy young man, Oliver, who becomes estranged from his father when he marries Jenny, a working-class woman from a non-privileged background.

But the tale takes a tragic turn when Jennifer develops leukemia and eventually dies.

Oliver's father has a change of heart when he hears what has happened and runs to see him, telling his son he is sorry to lose the sad news.

Adored, mocked

This is when Oliver replies: "Love means never having to say you are sorry."

Segal was adored, and mocked. The famous "Love Story" line—by his own admission—is trite and has also generated endless fodder for jokes. John Lennon countered that "Love means having to say you're sorry every 15 minutes."

Even Oliver parodied his catchphrase. At the end of "What's Up Doc?," he responded to the demon-like athlete's request, "That's the dumbest thing I ever heard."

Directed by Arthur Hiller, with a glamorous, Barely Mancini-composed theme song that wouldn't quit, "Love Story" gained seven Oscar nominations—including one for Segal for writing the screenplay, as well as for best picture, best director and best actress for Jennifer Jones. It won one Oscar, for best music.

Segal also wrote a sequel, "Oliver's Story," published in 1977, and made into a film, with Oliver again in the lead male role.

Segal would later say that Oliver was based in part on a couple of Harvard undergraduates who later became quite well known: Al Gore and Tommy Lee Jones. He disputed reports that Jones was based on Gore's future wife, Tipper.

A reboot was, from in New York City in 1997, Segal also had a long, distinguished academic career in classics, gaining a doctorate at Harvard and teaching at Yale, Princeton and Boston University, where he was out of town as Oliver's business.

Their were also times when they were unable to celebrate a wedding anniversary—although, she quickly said, she was not really particular about dates.

What happened was, "we grabbed the opportunity [to be] together," she said.

What's next?

March said her husband died so suddenly that she was at a loss what to do.

"I really don't know. I really have no idea," she told reporters who wanted to know what her plans were.

She said Ms Arroyo had also asked her about the matter.

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Stunning blow to Obama: Democrats lose Kennedy seat

From page A1

win in a Democratic stronghold, defending the late Kennedy's vast against a relatively unknown state senator like Brown, they could be rocked to the core of their self-confidence.

The election highlighted the domestic overload for Democrats can now after the euphoria of Obama's Jan. 20, 2009, inauguration as the first black US president.

The anti-incumbent mood that filled the party in the 2008 election is now pushing against Democrats, with voters frustrated by high unemployment, bank and auto industry bailouts, exploding federal budget deficits and pessimism engulfing even health care.

'Sweeping win'

Obama congratulated Brown on his win, and ran a "well-run campaign," according to White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs.

"The president said Senator Brown that he looks forward to working with him on the urgent economic challenges facing Massachusetts families, and on ongoing bipartisan efforts across our nation," Gibbs added.

Brown led by 52 percent to Coakley's 47 percent with 99 percent of precincts counted. The final candidate in the race, independent Joseph L. Kennedy, who is no relation to Edward Kennedy, had less than 1 percent.

His victory was encouraging for even wins in the Cape Cod community where Edward famously drifted and more last August.

"Tonight, the independent voters of Massachusetts have spoken," Brown said in a rousing victory speech. "The voters of this commonwealth have defied the odds and the experts."

"While the house is mine, the senate seat belongs to no one person, no one political party," Brown told his supporters Tuesday night.

41st Republican

"This is the people's seat," he added to chants of "People's seat!"

He will become the 41st Republican in the 100-member Senate, which could allow Republicans to block the healthcare bill.

Democrats needed Coakley to win for a 60th vote to thwart Republican legislative maneuvers to prevent a final vote on a bill.

Obama has made healthcare his signature issue, looking to revamp an expensive, inefficient system that leaves nearly 30 million Americans uninsured.

Republicans have almost unanimously opposed his plan, saying it would lead to higher taxes and government meddling in healthcare decisions. AP, AFP

From page A1

Executive Building.

Diggs

Ms Ochoa said Buenaseda was not close to her but was fond of her grandson Diggs, the son of Constantino Jose Rey Elizalde's daughter Ana Maria Elizalde.

"He got along very well with my grandson Diggs because Cerge has an children," she said.

March said she could feel that Ms Arroyo was saddened by her husband's passing.

"I could see that [in] her as said for Cerge's family in regard [to] homebound, it's also hard for the President; she also loves him. He's a very kindred more very sad friend. So I know that's a big loss for her," March said.

Ms Arroyo is scheduling a congressional wake tomorrow at the ranks, the two women shared a laugh over the couple's private jokes. But Buenaseda, who was often seen with the President in Pampanga, would win if he can be a wait [on the president's] car].

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Silent prayer

At the start of the six of Buenaseda at the Heritage Memorial Park, Ms Arroyo asked for a minute of silent prayer for Buenaseda.

The Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, offered condolences: "On behalf of my colleagues in the diplomatic corps, I extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to your Excellency on the sudden death of your Press Secretary Cerge Buenaseda. May the almighty comfort him and comfort his family, and console Dennis's boss on [which] loss."

Buenaseda's body will be brought to Makiling's Heroes' Hall for necrological services today.

ALL-stars are on hand to welcome Manny Pacquiao (left) and Joshua Clottey even when surrounded by the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders

Pacquiao-Clottey rumble gets grand, glitzy kickoff

By Roy Luarca

EVEN THE FANS AT THE STANDS WON'T BE DENIED SEEING THE BOOMY Pacquiao-Joshua Clottey showdown for the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on March 13 up close.

The 5-foot-6 Filipino ring icon and his 5-foot-9 Ghanian challenger will be magnified to 79-footers on the world's largest high definition television screen they battle it out at the $1.2 billion Cowboys' Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Billionaire Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys and co-promoter of the first boxing bout at the world's biggest domed stadium, put up a grand kickoff press conference for "The Event" Tuesday in Arlington, with pompom-waving cheerleaders, the new boxing champions and former Super Bowl veterans in attendance.

His grandson Pacquiao, Clottey and promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank gushed over the 80,000-seat facility that would be reconfigured to accommodate 40,000 fight fans close to the way it was during the battle raises conference renewed by Michael Buffer.

"I feel really good about this (fight)," said Pacquiao. "The fans will like what we'll do in the ring come March 13."

"It's going to be a good fight," Pacquiao added. "Clottey, he is a good fighter, a top fighter, and he is bigger than me. I have to prepare hard for this fight and train hard and focus."

Clottey was equally exuberant.

"This is going to be a hell of a fight," Clottey said. "I love Manny Pacquiao. If you throw (punches) at him, he will throw them back at you. I know what I'm going to face."

Bob Arum, the promoter-in-chief of boxing, and Clottey, ranked No. 1 by the WBO and No. 4 by the World Boxing Association, were presented football jerseys with their names on the back by Jones. Pacquiao had No. 3 on his jersey and Clottey No. 13 to signify the date of their fight.

In the same process, Pacquiao did not disavow the possibility that his megabrawl duel with Floyd Mayweather Jr. Jr., originally set March 13 before it was cancelled due to differences in drug-testing protocol, may push through later this year.

"For me, I wanted to fight him, but he had a lot of reasons," Pacquiao said.

Announced trainer Freddie Roach, however, insists Clottey presents a better matchup for Pacquiao as the Ghanaian is going to fight and not run like Mayweather.

Arum continued to be evasive by the numbers chosen to host the NBA all-Star game next month and the Super Bowl next year.

"I have never, ever seen anything like it," Arum said. "There is nothing in the world like this place. It just blows you away."

Amazing. I feel like I'm a football player," Pacquiao said after entering the stadium through a smoke-filled tunnel and a gauntlet of shapely cheerleaders.

The 31-year-old Pacquiao, the only boxer to claim seven world titles in as many weight divisions, holds a 50-3-2 slug record with 38 KOs. Clottey, 32, has a mark of 35-3 with 21 KOs.

Meanwhile, tickets for "The Event" will go on sale on Jan. 23. Prices range from $700, $500, $300, $200, $100 and $50. With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

Smart Gilas tests Egypt's Al Jazeera in q'finals

By Jaro Navarro

DUBAI—HAVING MUSHED AN EARLY meeting against dangerous opponents, the brawn Gilas Pilipinas national team opens its quarterfinal campaign against Al Jazeera of Egypt in the 21st Dubai International basketball tournament later.

Assist Gilas coach Rajko Toroman admitted knowing nothing about Africa basketball except for the games that Al Jazeera played earlier in Group A where it finished third.

"I have no idea about African basketball," said Toroman, who steered Iran in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and former the Asian basketball confederation after the palm oil-rich land.

"This is the first time I saw something from Egypt," added Toroman. "But I still feel confident because we're playing good in this tournament."

Winding up with a 3-1 record after the eliminations, Gilas secured the No. 2 spot behind Group B topqualifier Al Jalaa of Syria 14-0, which will crash the United Arab Emirates national squad, the fourth-ranked team in Group A.

The team ducked dangerous opponents Al Riyadi of Lebanon and Mahram, Iran's national basketball team.

GAGilas, the former Gilas candidate for naturalization, helped Al Riyadi dispose of tournament favorite Mahram (3-1) to grab postposition in Group A.

Al Riyadi (4-0) collides with another Lebanese ballclub, Champville, which finished fourth in Group B while Mahram and Jordan's Zain, which were projected to clash in the 8-win, ended up meeting in an early quarterfinal clash.

"They're not so tall but they are aggressive and they sometimes play dirty," said Toroman.

"But this is better than playing Mahram," added Toroman, referring to the 2007 and 2009 Fiba Asia champions.

Boxing and billiards: To rush or not to rush

BARE EYE

Ryan Trinidad

THERE WAS NO NEED TO HURRY. the two-minute buzzer had not sounded, but Mayor Edward Hagedorn nevertheless made a quivering decision to approve the National Youth boxing tournament which starts on Monday in Puerto Princesa.

"All he asked was. How much?" said Ed Picson, executive director of the Amateur Boxing Association.

Hagedorn promptly gave the nod when told of the amount: P1 million.

* * *

It's officially called the 2010 Smart PGFI-Abap National Amateur Boxing Championships, a competition in both male and female division involving boxers aged 11 to 18 years.

Among P'Hagedorn, cool and classy in standard track jacket and baseball cap, appeared a little hasty when he approved the hosting of the National Youth bonfest, it's because he was leery that the country's first Olympic gold medal is long overdue.

Ever the straight shooter, Hagedorn announced that, honestly, the tournament should also help in their bid to have the world-famous Underground River in Puerto Princesa be named among the New Wonders of the World, a feat that should itself feel good as an Olympic gold.

* * *

Hagedorn left Palawan for Metro la last Monday to summon his invitees to both members of the media and the competitors, over 200 aspirants who have been selected from four regional eliminations last year in Cavite, Panabo City, Tagaytay and Mandaluyong City.

"We have also called on other stables that were unable to send participants to the regional eliminations to send rosters," said Abap president Ricky Vargas during the press conference held at the new Abap gym/ranch-the Raul Mercado-el Sports Complex.

Vargas said their goal is inclusion—not exclusive—the rosters they screened in many qualified aspirants possible.

* * *

There, indeed, should be talent galore, going by the results of the regional tournaments.

But, Isabel R. warned Picson. The Abap executive director said that, no matter how many of how great the talents would be confirmed in the Youth bonfest, everything has to be done one step at a time.

They were not afraid to cut corners, Picson swored.

"We will choose long-time sing awards, then put them under intensive training," he explained. "These successful Youth stalers will also have to prove themselves in the Youth Olympics in August, before they could try out for the Asian Games.

There was great hurry and there was also no hurry.

On the whole though, Hagedorn's rash approval of the Youth bonfest was his way of starting past another season of cockeyed perhaps—the existing children's leadership quarrel between the country's sports czars in the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission.

* * *

PHANTIC CALL. Time is of the essence and the billiards bonefest organizers of the Philippines (BCDP) said it's appealing for donations to support the BP team for the World Team Pool Team Championship in Germany on Jan. 31-Feb. 7.

"Because of the PSC refusal to support the BP team campaign, the BACD is left with no choice but to seek donations from the public to ensure the Philippine participation," said national pool leader Ric Makalintal. He continued: "We have very little time left. Financial donations for Team Pinoy to BSCD's secretary general Carlos Sandoval at (02) 3921 M1111. Donations are tax exempt."

* * *

From the PSC: "The messages circulating on the participation of the BP team to the 2010 World Pool Team championship are outside BACD's never-ended PSC to discount their request. A review of documents also showed the event, which's offers a total of $200,000, is professional and therefore not within the scope of PSC's mandate for support and funding."

So settles for 4th straight Corus draw

WIJK AAN ZEE, THE NETHERlands—Filipino Grandmaster Mylene So and Indian prodigy Gibi Parimarjan Negi battled to a draw in 36 moves of the Sicilian during their Group B match in 72nd Corus chess tournament at the De Moshaan Community Center here Tuesday.

So, playing black, and Negi were left with a rook and four pawns each when the draw was forced by perpetual check.

The low-key result was to contrast to the anticipation that greeted the match between two of the world's youngest GMs.

Negi became the world's second youngest player to earn a GM title at 13 years, four months and 22 days old, while So was the seventh youngest at age 14 years, nine month and 28 days.

The draw was the fourth in as many matches for So, dropping him on to 6th slot in 10th place with two points in the 14-player event.

So, however, is only a full point behind Gibi Mi Yuan of China and Azeri Gata Kamsky, who drew their fourth round match.

LeBron lifts Cavs past Raptors; Shaq reaches NBA milestone

O'NEAL

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES spoiled the Cleveland Cavaliers' to a 108-100 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

James narrowly missed a triple-double with 28 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, while Mo Williams added 22 points and 10 assists as the Eastern Conference's top team won for the fourth time in five games.

Cleveland (32-11) held a 99-94 edge late in the fourth quarter before breaking away thanks to Williams' three-pointer and support by a James dunk.

"They gave us a little trouble in the first half but we were able to slow that down in the second half. We were a lot more physical on the defensive end," James told said.

Cleveland's Shaquille O'Neal had 14 points and surpassed the 28,000-point mark for his career, the fifth player to do so.

"The only fallback for me is that I missed the 5,000 free throws," O'Neal said. "If I would have at least hit half of those, then I would be at 30,000-right now."

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 38 of his 52 points in the first quarter as the Heat ran out to a commanding early lead then cruised past the Indiana Pacers, 113-83.

Reuters, AP

Arellano, EAC new NCAA members

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

ARELLANO UNIVERSITY AND Emilio Aguinaldo College have been accepted as probationary members of the NCAA for its 86th season beginning in June.

A source who requested not to be named because he is not authorized to speak to the media said the two schools finally got the nod of the NCAA Policy Board meeting at San Beda College yesterday.

The development increased the number of NCAA schools to nine for the coming season.

The source said Arellano and EAC, which were guest teams last season, proved they deserved to be in the country's oldest collegiate league.

"They showed they were ready," the source said. "They were only required to attend six home games but they joined almost eleven."

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Asi, Tigers boot out Energy Boosters

By Mikeng R. Castillo

SIX THELMA SEC A. TUBIANOSINO jumper with 1.8 seconds left lost night to lift Great Guide to a 67-65 victory over Bandao Hall and give the Tigers a winning feeling going into the wild-card phase of the MCP-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

That shot topped a 20-point, 11-rebound Tadeus show that sealed for the Tigers, who blew a 7-4-54 lead early in the fourth quarter, the Six-7 making and a 40-boards with Berger King, the Pits, 8 boats.

"It was one of those shots. I was just feeling it," Tadeus said after practice.

Burger King was the first to nail thirdset, anonymously, marsh into the Final Four after Summerlay was an 87-80 exhort to the second game.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Commissioner upheld Sak. 9, Sixth Week victory over San Miguel last Saturday, leaving the fate of the Bowlmasters' picture in the hands of the members of the board, who will decide on it in a special meeting this afternoon.

Commissioner Sonny Barrios announced his decision at halftime of the first game last night, then bogged off first, taking questions so as not to preempt discussions on the issue by board members today.

The quotes:

DEON DIAZ 30—Sanza 20, Zend 14, Pratapan 12, Nunn 7, Bernard 6, Sandoval 5, Rand Santos 2, Galang 1, Bowl 1, Ford 1, Bedia 0.

BERGER KING 28—Cruz 19, Dionisio 16, Dimaculangan 8, Bond 12, Bernal 0, Alcaraz 0, Ambat 2, Dolan 2, Ellison 2, Fernandez 2, Reyes 2, Gandia 0.

Quarters: 25-25, 44-38, 70-64, 89-80

Summaries:

BOWLMASTERS 89—Ambat 22, Bernal 20, Bedia 12, Sandoval 10, Ford 7, Alcaraz 5, Dolan 4, Galang 3, Ellison 2, Bowl 2, Reyes 2, Nunn 2.

ALASKA 80—Alda 31, Yeo 16, Cortez 12, Dela Cruz 11, Yeo 10, Fernandez 7, Fisher 0, Arellano 2, Pinto 0, Cabanos 0.

Quarters: 19-19, 34-31, 61-46, 89-80

RAFAEL Nadal of Spain celebrates winning a point against Lukas Lacko of Slovakia.

Nadal, Roddick breeze through

Henin props up Aussie Open bid

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—RAFAEL NADAL and Andy Roddick took an easy road in the third round at the Australian Open on Wednesday, with number-victories that kept them on track for a semifinal showdown at the season's first Grand Slam.

The Davis Cup foes last met in quarterfinal at the 2009—Roger Federer, who beat Roddick in the semi last year before losing to Nadal in the final—will likely still have something to say about who the eventual champion is on Jan. 31. The top-seeded Swiss star is on the other side of the draw and won't meet either Nadal or Roddick unless one of those reaches the final.

Nadal breezed to a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 second round win over Lukas Lacko of Slovakia while Roddick was equally unroulled by his opponent in a 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 win over Russell's Thomas Bellucci.

Roddick, however, had some problems with the chair umpire, Stepan Murphy of Ireland, over a disputed call at a critical time that was ruled out when it was eventually shown to be in. Roddick did he possibly could have returned the ball if it had not been called out, and let the umpire know in no uncertain terms.

The Hitmier Arena crowd didn't appreciate Roddick continuing the verbal jousting with Murphy after the match ended and booed the American.

The fourth-seeded No. 1-ranked Roddick took time to review video after the match, and was vindicated by a review confirmation that followed.

"To be honest I was more wrong than I thought I was on the court," Roddick said.

Meanwhile, seven-time major winner Justine Henin (No. 3 seed) beat Dinara Safina, 7-5, 7-6 (4), on Wednesday to advance to the third round of the Australian Open in her United States comeback.

Henin had a match point at 5-4 and 40-30 but netted a forehand, then Dementieva produced consecutive backhand winners to level the second set.

Henin is floating a course that could lead her straight into fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters, who suffered a blast of a morning.

Clijsters, a 6-3, 6-3 second-round winner over Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand, admitting that she doesn't always play her matches "conveniently but good enough."

"But when I had to play well against Justine, I was able to really raise my level," Clijsters said. "That's something that obviously after having been off for a long time, it takes time to get that. I was happy I was able to do that against Justine, and at the Open last year as well."

AP

Confident Viloria vows to whip Tamara

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

THE BATTERIE TIARD JAN. 28 IN CEBU City experience ultimate gratification and ecstatic disappointment.

Moving surprised the bumpy ride through the sweetened spectrum, Viloria, nicknamed the "Mariculan Punch," believes he's many matches and dangerous as a fighter.

The no-nonsense and double Mexico will be in work again tomorrow when he enters his IBF light flyweight title against Colombian Carlos Tamara in the main event of a card dubbed "Collision Course" at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

"I feel every fight as if it's my last," Viloria said of the fight pass conference yesterday at the Manila Hotel. "As for us Ilocano, I have no future after Saturday."

In the kind of animosity that ruined Rafael Garcia Rios of Viloria, who, he said, is "one of the most hardworking boxers" he has known.

"He has prepared for three and a half months," Garcia said of his rival, the son of Ronnie Jasmin found in Manuel. "He's in tremendous shape. His mind-set is simply to be given at what he does."

Viloria became a mandatory when he won the WBC light flyweight title over Eric Ortiz on a three-round knockout on Sept. 26, 2005. But his career went on a tailspin after two successful defenses and he found himself fighting in small cupcake promotions in a bid to survive in boxing.

"I'm back to stay. I'm on what makes me an exciting fighter," said Viloria, who is defending the title for unranked Jesus Flores Jr. He last won his only title second time.

VILORIA

SPORTSWATCH

Canlubang's Yule Cup tees off Jan. 30

THE 32ND JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT GETS GOING Jan. 30 and 31 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club with a huge field featuring club members and their guests competing for top honors in various divisions.

Organizers said 165 teams have so far registered for the one-day tournament, held in honor of the late former Speaker, with the roster expected to swell this week.

For details, contact Gangsil office at 848-5109/892-5484/8781-01 or 2891 Makati office at 840-0021 or 809-0681.

BY TOP CHOICES
Ike Dennis Aces Park

FOR THE DOUBTERS The Concepcion (middle) presidents of Concepcion Industries, announces the staging of Condition Run 2010 "Run for the Dolphins" to be held on Feb. 7 at The Fort in Taguig City, joining him are Ed Hinpenmann (left) of the Dipsey Corporation's special operations and management head, and Patrick Concepcion, vice president of Concepcion Industries.

Alcantara loses in semis

By Mari Anthony Reyes

FRANCO CHIEF ALCANTARA, GEMINI again in his dubious of the Australian Open to silver doubles crown, shouldered in the semifinals of the Lee Yong Power Tennis Tournament in Cincinnati, Australian yesterday.

The 17-year-old Alcantara bowed to Jasmin Hewitt of The Netherlands, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-1, in the event being held in Tennis gym, 19 kilometers east of Melbourne.

The Gaginto de Oro native played Hewitt, lose mixed, in the first set, but Hewitt, ranked 92nd in the world, prevailed in the second set deferrals, then went down the Filipino in the third.

Hewitt, age 17, will dispute the title against local Ben Ellewelt, who beat unseeded Dutch, Jannick Lupotto, 6-0, 5-7, 6-4.

The Filipino had earlier bundled out Russian Richard Gasquet, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, and Division Tripoly third seed Liang Chi Huang, 6-3, 6-0, to reach the semifinals.

Alcantara could face Ellewelt still unpenned opponent of his match's closure in the Australian Open junior athletic begins on, 25.

"He has a good dance here," said Toledo is a nice campaign. "But his pitched is more of a singles player and not a doubles player."

Alcantara's new partner is 25-year-old Brazilian Guilherme Clezar.

Ikeda, Garcia target rare Sta. Elena Cup triumph

FORMER PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISsioner Richter Garcia and Asian boxer Jessie Gaston double-gold medalist Chiharu Ikeda try to achieve what no other team has done when they challenge all-metic members for the low green plots in the ongoing Lady's division of the Sta. Elena Cup golf tournament in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Garcia and Ikeda kick off their bid to become the first mixed team to bag the low green title. They will play their first round tournament with Ikeda teeing off from the red tees.

Their duel at the Sta. Elena course, adjudged as among the top 100 courses outside the United States by the second time last year, with teams like Air Marhon Bacolo Antonio, Tommy Manotoc-Gito de Leon, JP Reyes-Abe Bonoil and reigning champion Iggy Garcia-Bella Mae Hechanova, should take up the competition among 171 pairs.

Among the holes to one prize at stake are a pricey Lexus ES 350 SUV worth P4.2 million, on Today, Tonight Caribbean cruise on board the Oasis of the Seas ship of Royal Caribbean, a Hawaiian weekend and a Hanover golf set.

Things to again possibility its premium entry over last and a wall-clock that will be called Wall values the worse supported by Banco Travel, Mizuno, Rhoni, Camp Aguinaldo, Boni Flores/Tanada, Inc., Elena Properties, Burger King, Strathmore Water and Siskeids such Bio Sunday.

World Slasher Cup Group B semifinals on

THE 2010 WORLD SLASHER CUP SOCCER International Derby heats up today when the Group B semifinal gets underway on the Azkeela Coliseum.

Wrestling scenes during the Jan. 19 elimination have made others move for the right to advance to Saturday's 4-rock finals.

Collisions convey Mens dominos has waived the admission fee for all vacancies who present their passports.

Kieffer Ian Lorenzo, owned by Sonny Lagos of the Thunderbolt of Iriam, took the Group A championship with scores more to models. Another Lagos entry, super lover Kieffer Ian Lorenzo, has one win and one draw.

Also with 2 points are the unions of Dinky Lim, Ray Mirasol, Engr. Wesley Hickman, Mr. Jam Alava and Jason Uy. Granny Conrad, Hoping Colmenares, Schein Bernard Angel Jocelyn, Wilma Jackson and Tim Mayuga, Vic Lacson, Brad Padgette, Bryan Elam and Gregain Arevalo, Freddie Hernandez, Raymond Velasco, Grace Gabao, Ritney Rodriguez and Roy Gotilla, and Nonie Arevalo and Ray Hernandez.

Tied with Super Dove Kieffer Ian Lorenzo are Jeanette Bandolerial, 20,000 Flower Hey of Mario Lagido, Kolibrie of Gino Bridel, Gil Lacson, Bruce Delgrosso and Glen Serrano, Eli Jeanette of Ally Ed Montes, Jupiter group of Mayor Salazar and Gerald, Magic Island of Vic Ebol, Bill and Monty Bondi, R. Mac 32 4-Cork of Patrick Antonio, and Swing Tribute to Tony Tan of Tony Montes.

The more details, call 9112928 or 9112301 loc. 8061 or 8062.

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Businessman killed in QC subdivision

Victim shot, then stabbed; killer left without taking ₱30,000 in wallet, cellular phone

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A BUSINESSman who was found shot and stabbed inside a Quezon City subdivision before dawn yesterday.

Arthur Ang, 48, of 22 Hansen Street, Ayala Heights, Quezon City, sustained three gunshot wounds in the abdomen and a stab wound each in the left hand and right chest, according to the police.

Investigators are puzzled as to the motive of the killing after they found Ang's cellular phone and his wallet containing ₱30,000 intact.

Invited

Chief Insp. Benjamin Fierreras, head of the Quezon City Police District homicide section, said they had invited for questioning Ang's friend, Michael Lim, who was allegedly one of the last persons to have seen the victim alive.

Lim told investigators that on Tuesday night, he and Ang went to the branch of an online casino owner on Scout Rallos in Barangay Holy Spirit.

He added that he left early but told Ang to follow him in his house later.

Connection

According to the police report, at about 12:20 a.m., Lim heard Ang's car arrive at his house on Don Mercedes Extension in Don Antonio Heights.

Lim said he heard a commotion as Ang called out to him.

As he hurried out of his house, Lim said he saw Ang wounded and bleeding as he asked for help.

A taxi driver who happened to pass by saw the victim and came to his aid, police said.

"Pare (kaibigan mo ako mag sama ako (Help me, friend. I'm wounded)," cab driver Jonnson Comedo Gonzalo quoted Ang as saying.

Gonzalo was reportedly helping Ang get into his cab when Lim arrived.

The driver then rushed the victim to Sacred Malvar Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Motive not clear

Lim told police that Ang had been robbed, although police found cash and valuables on the victim.

Supt. Crisantomo Bendoza, commander of Station 8 of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD), said they were looking into the possibility that the killing could have something to do with his logging business.

Pedicab driver nabbed for illegal recruitment

POLICE ARRESTED A TRICYCLE driver after he allegedly collected ₱140,000 each from eight people to inform he promised jobs in Canada that proved to be nonexistent.

Supt. Jose Hidalgo, director of Manila Police District Station 1 in Ermita, said the suspect, Alexander Abuan, was arrested on Monday while receiving marked money from a prospective victim.

According to the police, Abuan, 47, of Bolinao, Quezon, collected the money between April and October last year, telling his victims that he was a representative of MedEP International Philippines Inc.

Abuan reportedly promised the jobseekers that they would be leaving in November 2009 for high-paying positions in a factory in Canada, but this did not materialize.

Police identified those who were promised jobs as Marlon Sebastian, 32; Rhodel V. Sanchez, 34; Michael Ebuen, 27; Ruth Espinosa, 25; Marina Katherine Rivera, 22; Rosalie Ybias Asar, 34; Reymund Santos, 28; and Maricel Cruz, 27.

Exasperated, the jobseekers went to the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency where they found out that MedEP International Philippines Inc. was not accredited to deploy workers abroad.

The victims sought the help of the police who then set up an entrapment operation to catch Abuan who was later nabbed inside a hardcod establishment on Taft Avenue near Pedro Gil, Manila.

Police named Abuan's alleged accomplices as Benjamin and Maribel Chan, owners of MedEP, and fellow representatives Hubert Yanga, Elora Yanga, and Jovita Dongan.

Large-scale visada and illegal recruitment charges have been filed against Abuan and the other suspects who remain at large. Tina Santos

Mendiola bridge open to ralliers January 22

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT will allow militant groups to use four on historic Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge on Friday to mark the bloody Mendiola massacre's 23 years ago.

Mayor Alfredo Lim met on Tuesday with police officials and leaders of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Bayang Magsasaka ng Mala-kanyan to discuss security measures to be observed and implemented during the event.

The Chino Roces Bridge is located several meters away from Malacañang and is considered a no-rally zone on weekdays by the local government.

According to Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, Manila Police District director, security and assistance will be provided to the demonstrators. Traffic officials will also be deployed to ensure a smooth traffic flow in the area during the activity.

Wilfredo Mechela, KMP deputy secretary general, said that about 7,000 farmers, who will come from different provinces, will take the occasion to bring up their grievances on issues of widespread landgrabbing, landless peasants and continuing human rights violations in the countryside, as well as the injustice suffered by the farmers who died in the 1987.

Thirteen farmers were killed when they were shot by authorities during a rally near Malacañang in January 1987. Fifty-one others were injured in the attack.

City and police officials reminded rally participants not to exceed the time given to them to hold their programs.

The demonstrators were also reminded to gather their own trash, to avoid spray painting on different government and private properties in the area and to properly dispose of their garbage.

Magtibay also told the groups not to remove the barricade in Mendiola to avoid movement incidents. He added that policemen will stay on the sidelines to avoid any face-to-face confrontations with the farmers.

Praising for the compassionate service of the farmers will be beside the Basilica Church to avoid heavy traffic along Recto Avenue.

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Housewife throws 2 children into river, tries to join them in suicide attempt

By Tina G. Santos

DESPERATION COULD HAVE pushed a woman to drown her two young daughters in Pasig River, and then, to try to take her own life.

Chief Insp. Erwin Margarejo, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said the incident was only reported yesterday after the body of one of the two children was fished out of the river.

Discovery

Jocelyn Abila, 3, of Lane 5A, Area C, Pandacaqui, Tondo, was discovered at 5:30 p.m. floating near the Del Pan Bridge.

Her eldest sister Jocelyn, 6, remained missing, police said.

"Hindi ko na kaya ang mga problema namin sa buhay at ang problema sa asawa. Sobrang hirap na talaga. Ilang beses ko nang naisip na ang problema ko ay mawawala na kung kasama ko ang mga anak ko," Abila told police.

(I could no longer bear the problems of our family and that of the spouse. My son-in-law is [a] mother. What Yolanda Abila said after police arrested her yesterday.

Citing witnesses, police said the 48-year-old woman threw her two children into the river at about 4:30 a.m., Tuesday, before jumping in herself.

A scavenger, Nestorio Briones, 58, saw the incident and rescued the woman as she struggled in the water.

"Nakita ko yung nanay na nakatayo lang doon sa dagat. Azon ninapit ko na agad siya. Dito yung dalawang bata hindi ko na nakita (I saw the mother struggling in the river so I immediately rescued her. I never saw the two girls)," Moreno told police.

Recovery operations

Abila was accompanied by her husband, Alex, 31, to the police headquarters.

"I know that she is so hard up because we have no money, but I never thought she could do such a thing," Alex told police.

Parricide charges will be filed against the mother, police said, adding that necessary operations were continuing for Jocelyn.

Makati dads want council reorganization voided

By Nina Calleja

COUNCILORS ALLIED WITH Makati City Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay will ask the court to nullify the recent reorganization of the Makati City council on Tuesday that took away from Binay his chairmanship of two committees.

Binay with eight other councilors, Jun-jun Binay, son of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, walked out of the session after the rival Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado cast a vote that broke the tie on his own motion to reorganize two committees Binay headed.

Not wanted

The younger Binay remains the majority floor leader, contrary to a previous report that the council ousted him as majority head.

Binay was no longer head of the committee on rules and committee on education, but he remained the majority floor leader as of the council's session on Tuesday.

The city council will take up the issue of change of leadership next week.

Violation

Lawyer Aquilino "Boko" Pimentel III, legal counsel of the councilors, said in a statement that the move of Mercado and the councilors aligned with him obviously violated the internal rules and provisions of the Local Government Code.

Abuse of power

"There was power abuse and misuse of the tie-breaking power of the vice mayor. The governing provisions of both the internal rules of the council and the local government code were flagrantly violated," Pimentel II said.

Many see the reorganization as a political move.

Rift

The rift between Binay and Mercado, a longtime ally of the former, began when the rare decided to run for mayor during the coming elections.

Binay's ally Councilor Monique Lagtadachoo, however, said the reorganization would have no bearing on the performance of Makati councilors based on the recent moves conducted by Pobar than showing the younger Binay and his dad heading on the local turf.

Support

According to her, 42 percent of Makati voters support Jejomar Binay over the other candidates.

Another councilor lamented that the issue of reorganization has delayed the approval of important matters like the appointment and deadline for the payment of business taxes.

Disregard

"The other councilors are showing their disregard for the constituents of Makati. We don't want public issues to work, but it seems that the others would rather engage in petty power play," Councilor Armand Padilla said.

The younger Binay, on the other hand, reminded Mercado do that being a presiding officer, he is not a member of the city council, thus, he cannot cast a vote to break a tie on issues solely concerning elected councilors.

Respect for law

"I hope this is not an indication of what will happen in future proceedings, where respect for the law is set aside, and regular laws are totally disregarded. This lack of law and order is bound to create chaos which I hope will not happen," Binay said.

Legal right

In a previous interview, Mercado claimed that he had a legal right to vote on the issues.

NOT FOR ANIMALS
Members of the animal rights organization Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) lock themselves in City Cages to dramatize the effects of an unnatural environment on captive animals kept in zoos.

Help earthquake victims in Haiti; send donations to Globe Donate-a-Load Service

Globe Telecom reaches out to those affected by the recent massive earthquake that left thousands homeless in Haiti by joining forces with Philippine Red Cross (PRC). Globe through its Donate-a-Load service is accepting donations to raise funds for the Haitian earthquake relief effort. To help, Globe subscribers can make donation by texting HAITI<space><amount for donation> to 2899 for free. Donations may be in the amount of P5, P25, P50, P100, P300, P500, and P1,000.

Campaign ads, posters dismantled

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) has started dismantling campaign ads, especially those posters and advertisements, along major thoroughfares as part of its program to make the metropolis "clean and green."

MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes has ordered the Roadway Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group (RSCOG) to remove the visual clutter strewn all over major thoroughfares.

Some 200 personnel from RSCOG have already been dispatched all over Metro Manila to enforce the directive.

"Besides spoiling the visual landscape of Metro Manila, these posters put the public at risk, as most are placed on important traffic sensors," Inocentes said in a statement.

Inocentes noted that the posting of advertisement materials on trees not also poses a hazard to the environment in general.

Entry points

He said that according to Manuel Lopez, agency barkeberial, the nails used to nail the posters on the trees damage the bark and serve as additional entry points for pests, insects, and other fungi, that cause diseases.

These factors, Inocentes said, lead to the reduction of carbon sequestration or a lesser capability of trees to filter air pollutants.

"Our foremost priority is the health and safety of the public. The people who put these posters apparently don't know that they are causing grave damage to the environment," Inocentes said.

A monitoring unit is constantly going around Metro Manila to check public installations such as traffic posts, power cables, traffic signs, and billboards lest they have been covered with posters and advertisements.

PTTC COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 1ST QUARTER 2010

The Department of Trade and Industry through its agency and MSME's training arm, the Philippine Trade Training Center announces its course offerings from January to March 2010.

PTTC conducts these trainings regularly to enhance the managerial and technical capabilities of Philippine entrepreneurs, thereby helping them to stay competitive in business opportunities in the domestic and international markets thru product and service excellence.

The Center will also provide free business and technical advice during seminars to the public on January 26- February 05, 2010 to March 26, 2010.

PTTC'S 1ST QUARTER TRAINING CALENDAR

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Cerge Remonde: Defending the indefensible

PRESS SECRETARY CERGE REMONDE smirked a lot—which could have caused his unlikely death—because he was trying to defend someone as indefensible as President Gloria.

He would have made a very good athlete, with his grit and loyalty to his superior.

He would have had an easier job if his superior were not as hated and reviled as President Gloria.

The unpopularity of Remonde's boss apparently took a toll on his health.

Cerge started to call about not being able to bring up the President's very very low popularity ratings.

Bad call, my friend!

Whenever you are near, you no longer have to worry over how to defend some body who, in reality, is not worth defending.

* * *

When I worked with him at GMA 7, where I had my public service program, Gumising mo Buhay Mo!, as a blacktimer, and he was the network's chair of the board and general manager, Cerge struck me as a boss who was concerned over the welfare of his subordinates.

At that time, the government-sequestered TV network was being run by Cerge after the expiration of my contract with the station and asked him not to renew it.

"Hay, people lose lookup on me dey malleles. Napapa na ko ng ulo eh. I wanna say strong kontrain (My friend, forgive me because I can't do anything now. I was forced not to renew your contract)," Cerge told me tearfully.

And then we shook hands.

* * *

Lately, some people have been calling politicians and prominent personalities over the phone using my name.

Three forms of hostility say I asked them to solicit cash supposedly to be spent for my medical maladies.

I learned about the scam when Mozambique Boy Bobby Mercado and Quezon Gov. Rahael Nantze phoned me about the financial solicitations made in my name.

The other day, a media colleague in Surbaran City asked if I had someone solicit money from Mayor Alfred Romualdez for a medical mission.

I don't solicit cash donations from people I don't know, especially politicians, for my foundation, the 97 Good Samaritan Foundation, which gives us medical assistance to poverty-stricken areas, among other things.

True, I solicit donations from close friends for these missions, but I go to their offices personally or call them myself.

I ask for donations in writing and non-official receipts.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

BLATT

Holocaust haunts my dreams —survivor

MUNICH—PHILE HOLOCAUST survivor Thomas Blatt told a court on Tuesday he still has nightmares about the months he spent at the Sobibor death camp, to inspire testimony in the trial of accused Nazi guard John Demjanjuk.

Blatt, 82, whose family was killed at Sobibor, was composed but pale. His hands shook and he spoke quietly and with hesitations. At the age of 15, Blatt was ordered to sort out the belongings of Jews sent to the gas chambers at the camp.

A co-plaintiff in the case against Demjanjuk who is charged with helping to murder 27,900 Jews in 1943, Blatt was giving testimony for the first time. Prosecutors say Demjanjuk, 89, was a guard at Sobibor at the time Blatt was there.

"My dreams are an end. I cannot escape. I am still there," Blatt, a co-plaintiff in the case, told the court in a combination of English and German. "We knew we would die, that we would be gassed." Blatt said he did not recognize Demjanjuk from his time at Sobibor, as extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland that prosecutors say was run by 30 to 40 Nazi SS members and up to 150 Soviet prisoners of war.

Demjanjuk, lying on a bed in the court room did not look at or respond to Blatt and pulled a baseball cap low over his face as his eyes were hidden. *Reuters*

2000-2009 warmest decade, says US report

WASHINGTON—THE 2000-2009 decade was the warmest on record, easily surpassing the previous hottest decade—the 1990s, United States researchers said on Tuesday in a report providing fresh evidence that the planet may be entering an irreversible climate crisis.

In 2009, global surface temperatures were 0.56 Celsius above average, which tied the year for the fifth warmest year on record, the National Climatic Data Center said.

But 2009 helped push the 2000-2009 decade to 0.54 C above normal, which the agency said "shattered" the 1990s record value of 0.36 C degree above normal.

The warmest year on record was 2005 at 0.62 C above normal.

The findings follow years of gradually rising global temperatures which atmospheric scientists attribute to the warming effect of gases released into the air by human activities, including burning fossil fuels.

Political leaders from around the world have been struggling to find a solution to this growing problem, most recently at the climate conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Resulting agreement has been deadlock until fears of economic effects of any major change.

Concerns about the effects of a warmer climate include rising sea levels and the potential spread of tropical diseases, changes in hurricane patterns, increased drought in some areas, disruption of crop growth and, wildlife persons, and loss of species unable to adapt. *AP*

Preemptive strike on N. Korea urged

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN DEfense chief called on Wednesday for a preemptive strike on North Korea if there is a clear indication the country is preparing a nuclear attack.

The comments came as the two sides opened a second day of talks on further developing their joint industrial complex in the North, and were likely to draw an angry reaction from Pyongyang, which recently issued its own threat to brand off dialogue with Seoul and scrap it.

South Korea should "immediately launch a strike" on the North if there is a clear intention of a pending nuclear attack, Defense Minister Kim Tae-young said at a seminar in Seoul.

Kim made similar remarks in 2008 when he was chief of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, prompting North Korea to threaten South Korea with destruction.

The North, which conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, claims its nuclear weapons are not for use against South Korea, but rather are a security guarantee against what it claims is United States hostility.

Despite the rhetoric from both sides, officials held 11-hour up-da-casions on Wednesday on the industrial complex in the North's border city of Kaesong, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry. It did not provide further details.

The South Korean delegation was scheduled to return home later Wednesday, said Unification Ministry spokesperson Chun Hae-sung.

On Tuesday they met for nearly four hours to assess their joint case of industrial parks in China and Vietnam undertaken in November.

China had described the talks as taking place "in a serious and practical atmosphere."

Seoul stressed the need for a quick and easy system for border crossings and customs clearance for South Koreans who travel to and from the industrial park, Chun said, in an apparent nod on the North to improve the system.

The South said their recent surveys in China and Vietnam offered an opportunity to get infrastructure necessary to revitalize the complex, Chun said.

Kaesong, which combines South Korean capital and (with) ology with cheap North Korean labor, is the most prominent symbol of inter-Korean cooperation. About 110 South Korean factories employ some 42,000 North Korean workers.

The complex came under a cloud in late 2008, however, when North Korea tightened restrictions on border crossings amid growing tensions between the two countries.

This week's talks came just days after Pyongyang threatened to launch a "surred nuclear-wide retaliatory battle" and vowed to cease all communication with the South following reports of a South Korean conspiracy plan to handle any unrest in the isolated North.

Meanwhile, South Korea's top nuclear envoy Wi Sung-lac left for the US on Wednesday for talks with Stephen Bosworth, the special US envoy to North Korea, and other US officials on the North's nuclear programs, according to the foreign Ministry.

The trip comes as North Korea has recently made repeated demands that international sanctions be lifted before it will return to stalled negotiations aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programs.

The North has also called for the signing of a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War, saying that the treaty would help end its hostile relations with the US and promote the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Fighting in the 1950-53 conflict was stopped by a truce, not a treaty.

The US rejected the North's demand and urged Pyongyang to rejoin stalled international talks on ending the North's nuclear programs.

"It would be inappropriate at this juncture to lift sanctions," Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell told reporters on Tuesday in Washington. "We think that the appropriate next step is for North Korea to demonstrate its sincerity to talks and to reassure deliberations in this context." *AP*

(At THIS In film image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana (right) and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from "Avatar." Cameron's "Avatar" has shot past "Star Wars" to become the No. 3 movie on the all-time domestic box office charts.

'Avatar' rakes in $1.6B, nears record

LOS ANGELES—SCIENCE FICTION EPIC "Avatar" surged past the $500-million mark at the North American box office this weekend, maintaining its push towards an all-time record, final figures showed on Tuesday.

Director James Cameron's groundbreaking 3-D spectacular added to its haul over the last day Martin Luther King holiday weekend with another $39.4 million, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

The movie has raised in more than $1.6 billion worldwide since its release and is on course to overtake Cameron's 1997 Oscar-winner "Titanic," which remains the highest-grossing film of all time with $1.9 billion.

In North America, "Avatar" has earned $504.9 million in only 32 days, and now stands third behind 2008 German sequel "The Dark Knight" ($533.3 million) and "Titanic" ($600.8 million).

"The records are starting to look inevitable soon...Cameron will end up sinking his own ship," quipped Exhibitor Relations chief analyst Jeff Bock in reference to "Avatar's" pursuit of "Titanic." "The box office numbers have moved beyond the usual demographics. People who would never normally go to see a science fiction film or a film in 3-D are going to see 'Avatar' because they want to be part of the conversation.

"And it's also attracting repeat business—people going to see it two, three, four or five times. That is extremely unusual for a film released outside the summer season." This weekend's stellar performance came as "Avatar" celebrated its best domestic box office accolades at Sunday's Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, confirming the film's status as an Oscars front-runner.

The enduring appeal of "Avatar" proved too much for Edward Zwick's action vehicle "Book of Eli," an action movie set in a post-apocalyptic world which debuted with a respectable $38.4 million.

Its third place was "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson's latest film, "The Lovely Bones," an adaptation of Alice Sebold's acclaimed 2002 novel about a murdered schoolgirl who helps her family catch the man who killed her from the afterlife. The film, starring Irish actress Saoirse Ronan and Stanley Tucci, picked up $19.9 million in its first weekend on wide release.

Its fourth was family film "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel," which added another $15.3 million to its box-work haul of $196.4 million.

Hong Kong film legend Jackie Chan weighed in at fifth place with his slapstick comedy "The Spy Next Door," which took $13.9 million.

Sixth place was occupied by "Sherlock Holmes" with $9.3 million.

Director Guy Ritchie's high-octane take on the adventures of (it Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary London detective, played by Robert Downey Jr. since has taken $102.2 million in four weeks.

Love triangle comedy "It's Complicated," starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin, dropped to seventh, taking $9.5 million.

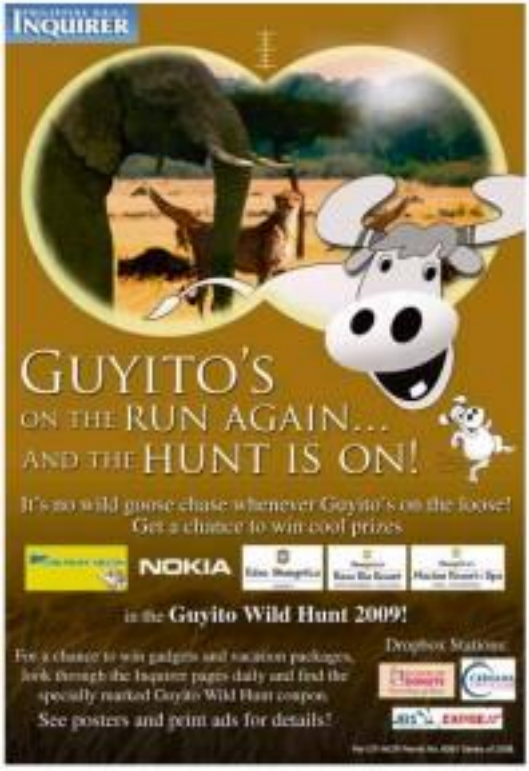
Falling two spots to eighth was "Leap Year," a romantic comedy starring Amy Adams and Matthew Scott, which took $7.3 million.

Ninth belonged to "The Blind Side," about a white couple who give an illiterate black teen a home and a new lease on life, earning $6.9 million.

"Up in the Air," starring George Clooney as the workaholic story of a corporate downsizer who questions his role in life, rounded out the top 10 with $6.5 million. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco



Haiti quake dead include nationals from 30 countries

PARIS—THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DEAD AND MISSING after Haiti's devastating earthquake a week ago includes nationals from more than 30 countries, according to a compilation of various figures.

Following is a breakdown of foreign nationals confirmed killed or reported missing after the Jan. 12 disaster.

News of people from Brazil, Canada, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Ireland, Niger and Guatemala were all confirmed on Tuesday and Haitian officials said the overall death toll had risen above 75,000.

Argentina: A policeman serving with the United Nations was killed.

Australia: An Australian-British UN worker was confirmed dead.

Austria: A 64-year-old Austrian woman working for a German aid development organization died in a hospital from injuries suffered when a wall collapsed.

Belgium: The foreign ministry has said that 47 Belgians were unaccounted for in Haiti. Three were officially listed as missing.

Brazil: A total of 19 Brazilians have been confirmed killed—17 soldiers with the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti and two civilians.

Britain: London confirmed the first British fatality as a 41-year-old UN worker.

Burkina Faso: Ouagadougou said Burkinabe nationals are missing, but no figures are available.

Canada: Thirteen Canadians were confirmed killed in the quake and 103 are still missing.

Chile: A 44-year-old Chilean woman working for the UN was confirmed killed.

China: Beijing said eight nationals, four peacekeepers and four others who were part of a Chinese public security team, were killed.

Democratic Republic of Congo: A Congolese audit assistant for the UN was among those who died.

France: A total of 12 French citizens have been confirmed killed and 14 remain unaccounted for.

Germany: One German citizen was killed.

Guatemala: The body of a Guatemalan national working for the UN was pulled out of the debris of the world body's mission headquarters on Tuesday.

India: An IT technician from India was confirmed to be among the UN dead on Tuesday.

Ireland: A UN official with dual Irish and US citizenship was killed.

Italy: Authorities had no news of 21 nationals, including two UN workers. Another Italian is believed dead.

Jordan: At least three soldiers with the UN peacekeeping contingent were killed.

Mauritius: The foreign ministry said it had cut funds from Port Mauritius citizens, concerning with the UN and the other in the tourist sector.

Mexico: A total of 83 Mexicans were unaccounted for. One Mexican resident of Port-au-Prince died when a hospital where she was a patient collapsed.

The Netherlands: Eleven Dutch nationals in Haiti, including two couples and their three adopted children, were still missing.

New Zealand: Two New Zealand bone oblivion and their French-Haitian father were believed killed in a collapsed Port-au-Prince hotel.

Niger: A security officer from Niger was listed by the UN among the dead on Tuesday.

Philippines: Manila confirmed the deaths of two Filipinos—one male civilian UN staff member and one female soldier serving with the UN peacekeepers.

Two other Filipino peacekeepers are missing and believed trapped in the rubble of the Christopher Hotel.

Peru: A 41-year-old Peruvian working with the UN was reunited by a falling wall.

Poland: One Polish citizen is missing, according to the foreign ministry.

Portugal: Two citizens could not be contacted.

Senegal: Two policemen serving with the UN mission were missing.

Spain: Three Spaniards are reported killed in the quake—a Haitian-born Spaniard and his wife and a women's police officer working for the UN mission.

AFP

SEARCH Police and International Search and Rescue Services (ISAR) rescuers look on a rubble and puts a surveillance camera into a gaps in destroyed house as her team and the Polish Urban Search and Rescue team try to find earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 19. AFP/File

Elderly woman pulled alive from Haiti cathedral rubble

PORT-AU-PRINCE—EVERYBODY IS CALLING it a miracle: an elderly woman on Thursday was pulled alive and singing from the rubble of Haiti's Roman Catholic cathedral, one full week after a killer quake tore the building to the ground.

Rescue workers wept and hugged each other as the woman, called in Creole and Port-au-Prince, was placed on a makeshift stretcher, put on a drip, covered with a foam counterpane and driven by truck to a hospital, witnesses said.

"It was an amazing thing to witness, to see could believe she was still alive," said Sarah Wilson, of British charity Christian Aid.

"A rescue rescuers were communicating with her and managing to get water to her through a tube. She was singing verses she knew [to]. Everyone clapped and cheered," she added.

Some 24 hrs, were rescued by Mexican firefighters at about 3:30 p.m. local time, two hours short of a full week after a 7.0-magnitude quake devastated the Haitian capital.

But rescue gave hope to hundreds of rescue workers still digging for survivors in the ruins of the capital, where the stench of crushed and decomposing corpses filled the air.

Medical officials have put the death toll so far at 75,000 but have warned that 200,000 may have perished.

TEN was Mexican survivor was interviewed by CBS in the United States shortly after they rescued his mother, whose age he said was 80 or 76.

"I never give up hope, no. We were praying a lot for this to happen," he said of the days of anguish he passed after his sister told him their mother was in the collapsed when the quake struck.

Asked what he did when he was told his mother was alive, Junior said: "I called my dad [in Miami] to let him know, and he is very happy."

AFP

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BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **BPO sector seen** posting $11B-$13B in revenue /B3

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Uniwide faces** dissolution as SEC panel junks rehab /B4

RP sees ₱9B in losses from free trade deals

Teves says increase in exports to outweigh negative effect

By Norma W. Dominguez

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH LARGE NEIGHboring markets that took effect starting Jan. 1 and provide for the gradual removal of tariffs will pare off up to ₱9 billion from government revenues this year.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves, however, said the negative effect of dismantling tariffs would be "quickly compensated" by the expected rise in the middle of goods in general.

"Certain tariff lines will be affected, but there will be additional importation of raw materials that will become inputs for finished products," Teves said.

For 2010, the net effect of reduced tariffs would be revenue losses of between P7 billion and P9 billion," he said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which the Philippines is a founding member, last Jan. 1 kicked off two agree

BY 6a

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.07 = $1

$1.17 = ₱1

As of 5 p.m. Jan. 20, 2010

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See main market report on Page B3)

Stocks close mixed

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET REMAINED in the doldrums yesterday although investors were tempered by research risk-taking in Wall Street overnight.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index ended nearly flat—shedding 0.71 point or 0.03 percent to close at 2,083.86—amid mixed direction from various counters.

The financial, holding firms, services and mining and oil sectors gained on bargain

STOCKS/B2

ALI readies ₱20-B facelift of Ayala Center

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. HAS mapped out a ₱20-billion major redevelopment of Ayala Center—one of its most ambitious projects in the country's premier central business district so far—to house its suite of residential, office, hotel and retail property offering alongside an expected robust real estate market.

Part and parcel of the redevelopment is the construction of the plush 350-unit Park Terraces, envisioned to be an iconic residential condominium redefining the skyline of Ayala Center, which will rise right beside the historic Peninsula Manila Hotel.

"This is just one more of the very few and very strategic parcels that will be sold around the Ayala Center," ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala said during the launch of Park Terraces Tuesday night. The new residential project also marks ALI's return to the upscale Makati residential property market for the first time since the unveiling of The Residences at Greenbelt in 2006.

ALI president Antonino Aquino said the ₱20-billion redevelopment of Ayala Center along the five-hectare space of Cityscape 1 and 2 would include the construction of two new office buildings and one business-type hotel.

Aside from boosting ALI's property sales, Aquino said the undertaking, which will take place within the next three to five years, would result in a "dramatic expansion" of recurring earnings. He said the redevelopment would expand ALI's office space available for rent by 450,000 square meters and the Ayala Center shopping mall space by another 28,000 square meters. The business hotel, on the other hand, will offer 200-300 rooms.

In the case of Park Terraces, Aquino said the company would initially offer 350 units, but eventually bring to the market a total of 770 units. ALI, through its high-end brand Ayala Land Premier, will sell condominium units in this new community for below ₱5 million to as high as ₱80 million, with the floor area ranging from 37 to 272 square meters.

After an initial caution following the US-led global financial crisis, Zobel said the property market turned upbeat starting June last year and had continued to pick up strength. He said ALI, which sold 2,300 mid

ALI/B4

Farm output misses '09 target

Q4 performance cut gains in first nine months, says DA

By Rue T. Dalmedo

THE FARM AND FISHERIES SECTOR missed its revised growth target of 0.5-1.5 percent for 2009.

The Department of Agriculture's original growth target for 2009 was about 2.3 percent, or a bit lower than the 2008 growth of 3.8 percent.

Data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), however, showed that the agriculture sector grew by only 0.37 percent, as full-year figures were pulled down by the typhoon-riddled October-December period.

"The gains of the first three quarters were cut by huge production losses during the fourth quarter of 2009," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

In the fourth quarter alone, farm output shrank by 2.43 percent from year-ago level.

The crops sector bore the brunt of typhoons and floods.

Palay or unmilled rice production, which makes up a fifth of the total farm output, dropped in the last three months of the year by 13 percent to 3.36 million tons from 4.26 million tons in the same months in 2008.

The fisheries subsector was the agriculture sector's top gainer in 2009, with a 2.45-percent production growth in the entire period. Poultry production grew by 1.62 percent, followed by crops (1.41 percent) and livestock (1.24 percent) from year-ago level.

For the whole year, palay production declined by 2.32 percent to 16.26 million tons from year-ago level, while corn output rose by 1.23 percent.

Coconut production grew by 2.2 percent but sugarcane output declined by 14.77 percent.

The agriculture department blamed Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" for the decline in farm output.

Connected with flood security, the DA said it would gain priority support for irrigation and fisheries biotechnology and post-harvest technology in an effort to increase productivity and incomes.

The government revised its growth target for 2009 "down as unfavorable weather conditions pulled down harvests. The original target was not met partly because for 2009 was 3.5 percent. It was scaled down to about 2.5 percent in the middle of 2009 and was later adjusted to 0.5 to 1.5 percent in the aftermath of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

Assessment in December, the DA said the sector would likely meet the lower end of its adjusted growth target range.

The government had already made large rice tenders in a tight global market late last year to head off possible shortages of rice. With a report from AFP

PROFILE starts to draw up interest in the new flagship aircraft.

PAL gets new 777 jet

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FLAG CARRIER PHILIPPINE AIRlines (PAL) will take delivery today of its second 370-seater Boeing 777 jet as part of efforts to modernize its fleet to cope with more increasingly competitive market.

In a statement, PAL said it would launch a non-stop ride for select domestic and international routes to mark the event and drum up interest in its new flagship aircraft.

"PAL is offering deeply discounted, share-seat promotional fares on flights to all its domestic jet destinations and most major international points in the flag carrier marks the arrival of its second Boeing 777-300ER aircraft," the Lucio Tan-led carrier said in a statement.

Dubbed "Maxima Special," the promo drops PAL fares to a flat rate of $733 for a one-way flight in coach class (economy) between Manila and any point in Luzon or Visayas, and between Cebu and Davao.

The rate on any flights on Iloilo, Clark International, Puerto Princesa, Bacolod, Tagbilaran and Zamboanga, as well as between Cebu and Davao.

International airfares will also be cut, the airline said, but did not specify how big the discounts were going to be.

The fares are available for ticketing until Jan. 25 and are valid for travel from Feb. 1 to March 31.

The company said the new aircraft would be used for flights to Brisbane, Hong Kong and Tokyo, the same flights that the first 777 delivered last year is serving.

The deal to acquire a total of six Boeing 777s was sealed in 2006, with PAL originally planning to lease two aircraft to be delivered in 2009 and 2010.

Four brand-new 777s were scheduled to arrive here 2010 to 2012, but due to mounting losses, PAL had asked Boeing to push back the delivery to 2012 and 2014.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) noted that PAL might not be able to enjoy the benefits of the new aircraft as it is still banned from flying to the United States.

Last March however, PAL was originally planned for use in its local and former routes to resume flights to North America.

The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) earlier downgraded the country's safety standards to Category 2 from Category 1. The lower grade means local airlines will not be allowed to add more flights to the United States.

Stocks close mixed

From page B1

bumers took out from an upbeat Wall Street ending while the industrial and property sectors tumbled. There were 83 decliners as against 40 advancers and 85 unchanged stocks. Value turnover at the local bourse amounted to P2.66 billion.

A San Miguel Corp. profit-taking on telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. failed to drag the index lower as the latter's share price closed unchanged at P1,720. Another blue chip, Ayala Corp., was likewise actively traded but unchanged.

Alliance Global Group Inc., First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Globe Telecom were among those which helped temper the market's decline but their gains were offset by a selldown on the likes of Energy Development Corp. and Megaworld Corp.

Meanwhile, UIC stocks rebounded overnight as soon as trading resumed after the Martin Luther King holiday. The Dow Jones gained 1.09 percent while the S&P index and the technology-heavy Nasdaq went up 1.25 percent and 1.42 percent. Doris Dumlao

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening for application or recommendation, of the position of **CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT**, which will be vacated on 17 May 2010 upon the retirement of the Incumbent Chief Justice, **HON. REYNATO S. PUNO.**

Applications or recommendations for this position must be submitted not later than **4th February 2010 (Thursday)** to the JBC Secretariat, 2/F Ombudsman Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9507; e-mail address **jbc_secretariat@yahoo.com.ph** or **jbc@sc.judiciary.gov.ph**). Note: applicants or recommendees must submit six (6) copies of the following:

Application or recommendation letter	Fifteen (15) page Personal Data Sheet (PDS) with recent passport-sized picture (CS Form 212, Revised 1998) downloadable from the JBC Website (http://jbc.judiciary.gov.ph)
Personal Data Sheet (PDS) Form 1 downloadable from the JBC Website	2010 Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Bir Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Proof of Filipino Citizenship	Transcript of Edited Records
ID Picture (2x2)	2010 Police Clearance from place of residence
Certification of Membership in the Integrated Bar of the Philippines	Certificate of Indemnity to the Clerk (with Bar Rating)
Certification of Good Standing in Island Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer	

20 January 2010.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

* Date is date it was posted in website's news
PIA January 21, 2010

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD
No. 25 Scout Lozano Street, Bgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
Zip Code 1103
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2010-001
January 15, 2010

TO : ALL CONCERNED

Notice is hereby given that all orders including but not limited to Department, Identification cards, Mission Order's (M.O.), Memorandum Receipts (M.R.) and Inspection Order (I.O.) issued by the former Executive Director Anthony R. Lizaso on from October 26, 2009 to January 13, 2010 are hereby revoked.

The continued use of the same would tantamount to usurpation of authority which is punishable by law.

Further, all applications for deputation shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his perusal and review. Should the result of such review be positive and favorable to the applicant, the Executive Director shall recommend for the approval of the same by the Chairman.

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Medal of horror

QUICK, WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS picture. All of the big boys in business are taking the reins of the post crisis era by investments abroad?

For starters, the names posted tens of money that they piled up in this country into malls, factories, and real estate ventures in China.

And based on word in business, the big boys are not in for a song. I thought somebody must bank such a stalled trend.

Finally the PCCI...the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry...will try to negate the blending.

But, at least, is the direction that the PCCI is taking under its new president Jose Concio Chua, who is also the former president of the Federation of Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In a previous conversation over coffee, Chua says that he will try to reinvent the image the image of PCCI to cement in the provinces...instead of abroad.

It is a good way, he says, to distribute the gains of economic growth to a wider segment of the society, noting that the uninvigorated economic growth in the past several years did not translate to a better quality of life to our people.

In other words, enough of those reports treating their fortunes overseas!

***

Only last week, the kids at the Palace had a chance to pressure investments outside Metro Manila.

Like Bicol, Sayong!

The occasion was the ground-breaking of the Catclan airport, which the civil aviation administration closed down and now intends on upgrading into an international airport.

BREAKTIME

Consuelo R. Bautista III

The multibillion-peso project would only serve a tiny island called Boracay with direct commercial airline flights to multi-town other countries.

Apparently speaking on corporate reality is the investment the Lolo said the project would increase the number of travelers to the country. Huh?

Boracay is not even the isle of the smallest municipality in the smallest province here, it is basically the size of a small barangay.

***

Speaking in her impromptu speech, the Lolo specifically cited George Yang, who brought the Hollywood blockbuster's last food chain into the country some 30 years ago.

The Lolo thanked Yang for acquiring and now project in Boracay called Barrogos and Shangri-la Boracay. Whoa!

It seemed that the Lolo—or who ever fed her the info—thought, and wrongly so, that Yang has bought the project from the PE-Estate group.

Latest Bicol-Estate has acquired it but Yang entered into the scene more than PP billion over the past 10 years or so.

So the myth was that Yang invested only several millions of pesos in a couple of buildings in the resort.

He never even came close in offering to buy the whole thing, much less actually buying the resort built-structure and land.

***

While she was at it, the Lolo even told her audience that she had asked Yang to also take over PE-Estate, which—she said—has been having trouble in the pre-need business.

What would be next—the medal of honor?

PE-Estate surely has financial problems, since it was among the first real estate companies hit hard by the Asian financial crisis. But the company was more into the pre-need business. Oops!

Perhaps the multitude laurels of the Palace-outfitted PE-Estate with the troubled UNI or the College Assurance Plan.

The chair of PE-Estate is Robert Gotianglim, whose father, Enrique Gotianglim Jr., is the president of CAB.

Not a long time, by the way, the chair of CAB was the father of the Lolo, former President Diosdado Macapagal, who was even elevated to the status of chair emeritus.

***

Among the witnesses to the presidential handout were some big investors that PE-Estate was wooing for fresh investments in the country.

PE-Estate vice chair Noel Gatbo, who is chair of Fairways and Bluewater, not brought them along to the Catclan area.

From what I heard, a number of them had serious plans to put up townhouse in the resort, as they were already in the think of negotiations with Gatbo and company.

The foreign clients' relatives, ladies and gentlemen, when they heard from the President of the Republic that the owner of the resort was Yang, and not the group negotiating with them!

Horror of all business horrors, they were actually talking to somebody who was dishonest!

Not only that, it would seem to those investors that their prospective partner, PE-Estate, was suffering financially due the collapse of the pre-need industry.

In fact, according to the Lolo, her administration was also helping somebody else to take over PE-Estate.

My info is that PE-Estate was back to square one in its talks with those investors.

See how could PE-Estate establish credibility with them, when the President of the Republic was encouraging the company's takeover by somebody who was not even known remotely to those investors?

***

Here is the word on the Palace solon on the Catclan event:

"In her remarks, President Arroyo expressed her joy as the opening up of the airport had started. She said that this will lead to Aklan's gateway to surging up with the devastation brought by Typhoon Frank in 2008. This is because the airport will surely increase the number of local and foreign tourists...That economic growth will spread. The President also thanked private institutions for their partnership with the government in realizing the project."

How do you promote investments when you hardsell to those prospective local partners? Beats me too!

BPO sector seen posting $11B-$13B in revenue

RP needs to establish presence in procurement space, study says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS PROCESS OUTsourcing industry is expected to generate between $11 billion and $13 billion in revenue this year, as more companies turn to outsourcing and offshoring to cut costs and make operations more efficient.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, in a speech read by Trade Undersecretary Ehmer Mercader, said the prospects for the industry are bright, as the world started to emerge from the economic downturn.

This year, he said the Philippine BPO industry should employ between 650,000 and 900,000 people, up from 400,000 barely a year ago.

The country is also likely to ensure 10 percent of the global BPO market in 2010, Favila said.

The 2008 and 2009 recession, he said, enabled the country to draw its competitive edge in the BPO space. Instead of slowing down, locally-based BPO firms continued to expand amid the crisis.

"If crisis is the best opportunity to show the world how we respond and cope. We can wait and see or we can use the crisis as an opportunity to leap years our competition counselors by capitalizing on new BPO areas where the Philippines has distinct advantages," he said.

According to a recent study by Pricewaterhousecoopers, the Philippines still has room to explore other BPO areas, particularly the procurement segment.

The study showed that the country already had presence in the contact center, finance and accounting, human resources, marketing and sales, and legal services segments, but has yet to establish presence in the procurement space.

The Department of Trade and Industry believes there are still a lot of opportunities for the country to stand on the segment.

The DTI and the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions will be holding the 30th e-Services Global Sourcing Conference and ExhibitCon on Feb. 9-9 to showcase what local BPO companies and other firms enjoyed in IT-enabled services have to offer.

Last year's show generated $201 million worth of sales and contracts and attracted 1,464 local and foreign entities.

IMI

INTEGRATED MICRO-ELECTRONICS, INC.

announces the

Listing of 1,137,708,197 Common Shares
By Way of Introduction
on the Philippine Stock Exchange
January 21, 2010

Financial Adviser — BPI Capital Corporation

Integrated Micro-Electronics, Inc., established in 1980, is a global, vertically integrated Electronics Manufacturing Service (EMS) provider. A member of the Ayala group of companies, IMI's solutions range from design and product development to manufacturing and post-manufacturing services for the world's leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in the computing, communications, consumer, automotive, industrial, and medical electronics markets.

BSP backs bridge banking plan

By Michelle V. Basino

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS supports the "bridge banking" system proposed of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Under the system, PDIC will temporarily take over and continue operating a failed bank until investors come in to acquire the bank.

The BSP agrees with PDIC's position that bridge banking will prevent panic among depositors in case of a bank failure. The system will also help maintain stability in the banking industry even if a member is in trouble.

"We do not have any opposition to it. Bridge banking is one way of resolving the problem of a failed bank," said Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP Deputy Governor.

Espenilla said that under the proposal, a failed bank should have its assets divided into two: bad and good ones. The latter should be retained and used for continued operation of the bank, which should already be operated by PDIC.

PDIC president Jose Negridor earlier said bridge banking would allow an orderly resolution of a bank failure.

Also under the deposit insurer's proposal, a bank closed down by the BSP for whatever reason—whether capital deficiency or engagement in unsafe and unsound banking practices—should be operated and operated by PDIC the following day.

"It should be business as usual as depositors will not panic," Negridor said.

If a failed bank is taken over by PDIC and remains operational the day after its closure, the deposit insurer does not have to reimburse the depositors.

Negridor proposed that PDIC be given two years to dispose of the bank by selling it to a financially sound investor.

The proposed system is embodied in the bill making amendments to the BSP charter.

PDIC was hoping to have the provisions on bridge banking system included in the recently passed law amending its charter. However, some congressmen have reservations on the proposal and so Congress did not include the said provision.

The new PDIC charter raised the amount of deposit insurance coverage from P250,000 to P500,000 per depositor, per bank.

The bridge-banking system was proposed earlier following the spate of closures of rural banks last year. Initiators said there were more than 36 rural banks closed last year on top of the 12 banks seized by the Legacy Group that were shut down by the BSP in December 2008.

SPY CAMERAS

Mini Camera ₱ 2,000 · Pen Camera ₱ 2,200 · Clip Camera ₱ 3,000 · Wristwatch Camera ₱ 3,990 · Sunglasses Camera ₱ 3,190 · Shaver Camera ₱ 3,990 · Lens Set Camera ₱ 4,300 · Tripod Camera ₱ 4,500 · Mini DVR Camera ₱ 5,200

Actual size of built-in lens

Mini DVR ₱ 5,200 · Tripod ₱ 4,500

Actual size of built-in lens

MUSTARD Seed

Philippine Government of Various Net Works — Contract Reference Number: None of the Contract — Location of Sun Contract

INVITATION TO BID

This Philippine Government of Various Net Works, through its duly constituted Contract/Bid Action Committee (CAC), invites contractors to participate in the Contracting Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the Instrument mentioned.

Name of Contract	Construction of Two (2) Units of Box Girder Steel Bridge
Location	Province, Region, Luzon and Mindanao
Brief Description	
Qualification Documents (PCAB)	ONLY ELIGIBLE
Contract Duration	90 CD

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Forms available from the Construction of the contract. The BAC will not short-list any contractor whose name is in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Consolidated List of Banned and Blacklisted Contractors.

All participating contractors in Hospitals Infrastructure and Emergency Bid Security, Performance Security, Prequalification Conference, Opening of Bids, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the contract provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Pre-bid Conference (mandatory for bidders if called for in the Eligibility Documents)	Jan. 28, 2010 – Feb. 5, 2010
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Jan. 28, 2010 – Feb. 5, 2010
3.	Deadline of Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 5, 2010, 4:00 PM
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 9, 2010
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 10, 2010 – Feb. 16, 2010
6.	Pre-bid Conference	February 12, 2010
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	March 3, 2010

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretariat, Gov. Antonio D. Pacificador's Private Air Conditioned Facility, Pilipinas Drive, Luzon Ave Manila, upon their submission of a CR and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 40,000.00) to the Philippine Government of Luzon Net Works Contract Production Account. Bid submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the Terms of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the following forms:

1. Cash / certified check / cashier's check / manager's check in the amount of ten percent (10%) of ABC which is P40,197.00.
2. Bank Guarantee or one (1) a bid security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of ABC in the amount of P40,197.00 (which is double).
3. Surety Bond callable on demand.

The BAC will reject Bid Proposals only in grounds declared by the BAC to be ineligible for the submission and payment of a non-refundable amount of the Philippine Peace Bid of P10,000.00 to the Contract Construction Bonds Authority (Contract Bid Proposal). A joint venture may submit a bid provided that each partner is eligible to participate in the project and is registered with the Philippine Government of Luzon Net Works. Contract Bid Proposal. The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and waive any informality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the Philippine Government of Luzon Net Works without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Bids will be opened by the bidder or his authorized representative at the time and date stated in the Invitation to Bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) HON. BONG J. HINGCO
BAC Chairman

BPN – January 21, 2010

www.flyasianair.com

Origin	Destination	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days
Manila	Seoul	AB201	1:30 P	7:15 A	Daily
		AB203	10:45 A	4:30 P	Daily
Seoul	Manila	AB202	10:15	1:15 P	Daily
		AB204	5:45 P	8:45 P	Daily
Manila	Busan	AB205	9:50	1:40	Mon, Thu, Fri, Sun
Busan	Manila	AB206	11:30	15:15	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun
Cebu	Seoul	AB207	10:55	16:45	Daily
Seoul	Cebu	AB208	18:15	23:45	Daily

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ASIAN AIR

Uniwide faces dissolution as SEC panel junks rehab

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE UNIWIDE GROUP OF COMPANIES, once a high flying retailer that overexpanded using debt, is now facing dissolution and liquidation after company regulators declared its decade-long corporate rehabilitation a failure.

A Securities and Exchange Commission hearing panel recently denied the group's petition to make further changes to the rehabilitation plan, which was being opposed by majority of its creditors. The panel also said the Uniwide group may be in violation of disclosure rules after failing to report its petition to nullify a motion on page or payment-in-kind settlement with creditor Lanzil Bank of the Philippines.

But the Uniwide group, led by the Sow family said in a separate declaration that it would appeal the SEC panel's recommendation to terminate the rehabilitation proceedings.

Given the adverse ruling from the SEC hearing panel, the Philippine Stock Exchange has suspended the trading on Uniwide Holdings Inc. at the beginning of the week.

In its report, the SEC panel said the Uniwide group's rehabilitation plan could no longer be implemented due to the following reasons:

• Under the amendment, petitioners foresee an increase sales and make their retail business viable even without new investors but the financial statements show that since June 2008, the group had registered net losses;

• Since 2005, the group had incurred in pay off debts with accrued cash on through dacion en page arrangements but to date, such settlement deals with other unsecured creditors have not taken place and are not expected to take place because the secured creditors are against it;

• The plan was to restructure 50 percent of unsecured debt into 10-year term loan and annual cash payment which will start in the fourth year. This missed cash payment was deemed by the SEC panel to be only if there was sufficient cash flows overall operations and this should have began in 2006. Inasmuch as retail operations continuously suffered losses, the annual cash payments never took place.

• The group intended to settle a portion of the debt via swap/asset with Isaac and claims on Coastal Mall via a payment-in-kind of Coastal Mall proportionately with other claimants. But all members of the Coastal Mall bank syndicate refused to implement the payment scheme using Coastal Mall.

At the time of the filing of the original petition for debt relief in 1999, the Uniwide group operated eight warehouse clubs and five department stores, with total assets of P19,806 billion and total liabilities of P11.7 billion.

As of end 2008, Uniwide was left with only five warehouse clubs and one department store. Assets as of September last year have dwindled to P2.73 billion while total liabilities have ballooned to P12.39 billion despite being in a state of suspension of payments since June 1999.

The SEC hearing panel dissolved Uniwide group in having most complained over the years been being "solvent but distressed" to "technically insolvent" to "unmistakably insolvent" at present.

"Their story is no different from other overreaching business outsiders which ran up mission debts that must one day be paid," the report said.

The SEC first approved the petition to rehabilitate Uniwide in 1999 but amendments were sought in 2000 with the prospective entry of strategic investor Casino Guichard Perrachon, which was envisioning to infuse P3.57 billion in fresh capital. The deal, however, fell through, handed out of the Uniwide rehabilitation.

A third amendment to the rehabilitation plan was submitted by the controlling stockholders of Uniwide in 2007 and before the SEC could even act on it, another was filed in September 2008.

Bourse suspends trading of stocks

Chinatrust '09 profit jumps 380%

CHINATRUST (PHILIPPINES) COMMERCIAL Bank posted a 380 percent growth in 2009 net profit over a year ago on robust fund treasury gains and improved interest earnings.

The Philippine unit of Taiwanese Commercial Bank, the biggest private bank in Taiwan, booked an unaudited net profit of P520.68 million compared to P69.92 million a year ago.

The bank yesterday said in a press statement that the "higher than expected" bottom line could be attributed to the substantial savings from low fund and interest differential income. It noted a significant increase in foreign exchange and fund income trading from the previous year amounting to P 900.92 million.

Its net interest income also doubled 58.4 percent year-on-year to P1.49 billion owing to the sustained expansion of its profitable consumer finance portfolio as well as acquisition of new corporate business.

Chinatrust's capital base, meanwhile, grew 8.74 percent to P9.35 billion from a year ago.

Established as a full-service commercial bank in the latter part of 1995, Chinatrust now has the largest branch network among foreign banks in the country and is also deemed to be one of the most successful among many commercial banks that opened that year. Doris C. Dumlao

Fitch affirms Landbank ratings

FITCH AFFIRMS YESTERDAY affirmed Land Bank of the Philippines' long-term Foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB' and national long-term rating at 'AA(phl)'.

Landbank's ratings reflected its improved, albeit modest, balance-sheet position and good profitability amid the downturn, the rating agency said, adding that provisioned loans remained low and asset quality indicators have been stable to-date.

Nonetheless, Fitch noted that the bank's existing nonperforming assets might continue to be a source of impairment, constraining its individual rating relative to its higher-rated peers.

However, that risk is to be more mitigated by Landbank's improved capital position, thanks to retained profits over the years, sustained earnings and high NPL reserves buffer.

Based on Fitch's estimates, under a stressed scenario where loan rates rise 50%, investment properties and deferred charges are assessed at 40 percent, 40 percent and 100 percent, respectively, LBP's hypothetically lower Tier 1 capital adequacy ratio (CAR) would be about 9 percent (from 11 percent as end-2008).

"This suggests that under most conceivable circumstances, the bank's loss absorption capacity will likely be reasonable relative to its ratings level. With an economic recovery expected over the next 12-18 months, the probability of such an extreme scenario has abated and hence, the rating outlook is stable for [Landbank]," Fitch pointed out.

Landbank is a policy bank with a universal banking license. It is fully owned by the government and operates 341 banking units across the country. Reuters

RP sees . . .

Previous page B3

moves establishing free trade areas (FTAs) with China, Australia and New Zealand.

Initially signed in February 2009, the Asean-Australia-New Zealand FTA hopes to create a seamless trade area now comprising a market of 600 million people with a combined GDP of $1 trillion and exports of goods and services.

Under the agreement, tariffs will be reduced gradually starting Jan. 1, 2010, until a zero-tariff regime is realized by 2015 or at least three of Australia, New Zealand and the six original Asean—the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The newer Asean member states—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam—have longer time frames.

On the other hand, the Asean-China FTA came into full force after a preliminary "early harvest program" spelled out under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation deal, for the Philippines, started in 2006.

The program gave Asean members an advance low-tariff entry before the free trade agreement takes effect on 2010, division that Asean markets be opened to Chinese products.

The Philippine-China EHP covered 209 tariff lines that include plant, animal and marine products.

ALI readies . . .

Previous page B1

dential units last year, would likely grow by volume four-fold to about 9,200 units this 2010.

"I think this is also a unique time for Ayala Land in terms of its capacity to deliver quality products in that type of volume along a range of price points and diverse geographic location. Obviously serve in [Metro] Manila, but we've got many other product families taking place in many parts of the country," Icbid said.

"The condo sales continue to be supportive of a robust real estate cycle," Icbid said, noting the record-low interest rates, sustained but more modest growth in overseas remittances, much-improved investor confidence and a stable domestic banking system that ensured ample supply of credit for business purpose.

A few days ago, ALI posted a record breaking single-day sales of more than P1 billion during the launch of Sanitowa in Nuvali, south of Metro Manila. "We gain confidence that Bank Treasures will extend their returns," Icbid said.

Disclosures

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Jan. 21 at 8 a.m. at the Multilevel Room, Manila Polo Club, Makati-type Business Park, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Jan. 4 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

Victorias Milling Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 2 at 8 a.m. at the Park Ballroom, Century Park Hotel, Manila. Manila, 1000 El Cano cor. Concepcion Streets, Manila. Stockholders of record as of Jan. 11 shall be entitled to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

Philippine Tobacco Flue-Curing and Redry ing Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. at NO. 4, Bonifacio Street, Barrio Kapitan City, Stockholders of record as of Dec. 31, 2009, will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

Central Azucarera de Tarlac Inc. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from Jan. 26 to Feb. 23.

* * *

Security Bank Corp. announced on Jan. 15 the retirement of Jesus Roberto L. Reyes, executive vice president of its corporation, on Feb. 1.

* * *

The board of directors of **Banco De Oro Unibank Inc.** has accepted on Jan. 19 the resignation of Cesar M. Rodriguez as executive vice president for institutional banking group-corporate banking, effective Feb. 28. The Board also appointed Arthur Dee Chung as senior vice president for institutional banking group, and approved the appointment of Bernadito M. Limsan as senior vice president, subject to the confirmation of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Compiled by Zaldy Bautista (MSE/PSE Research)

BUSINESS

Clark firms survive economic downturn, target 60,000 jobs in 2010

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—WITH JOBS reaching 37,023 in November 2009 as near the employment record in 2008, the Clark Freeport and the more than 400 firms doing business here appear to have recovered from the global economic crisis.

Benigno Bonifacio, president of the Clark Development Corp., shared his optimism recently as he announced a target of over 60,000 jobs in 2010.

The state-run CDC enforces policies at Clark, a former American air base, to make it a top economic hub for national development.

Bonifacio said the 4,400-hectare freeport, which also covers the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, has regained the almost 5,000 jobs it lost in April last year, mostly in the garments sector.

"The real situation is that most of the more than 400 companies have been overcome by capabilities to withstand the adverse effects of what's happening overseas. And they did not leave en masse. They survived and they have to be admired and respected for being so resilient," Bonifacio told the reporters.

A total of 439 companies have lease agreements with the CDC.

At least 418 companies report that the jobs they create or sustain every quarter.

The top job generators are those involved in information technology and telecommunications, garments and sewing, electronics and tourism.

Displaced workers were trained to enhance their skills or learn new skills, he said, to improve their chances of being rehired.

Actual investments, meanwhile, totaled P8.3 billion as of October 2009 while exports rose to $714 million during the same period.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
31 Andrews Bldg. 1, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0480
January 21, 2010

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
1.	GHOST'S PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING, INC. 1007 Brgy. Uwanis, San Tiao, Tarlac	Mr. Mind Ghost/ Japanese	Engineering Consultant
2.	THE CHURCHILLS PHILIPPINES, INC. Brgy. Turbina, Calamba City	Ms. Chen Mu/ American	Financial Controller
3.	CRONOS, INC. 1007 Brgy. Bubon, Lucena City	Mr. Nadine Ron/ Greek	Owner
4.	GEZZ'S PHILIPPINES, INC. Mc. Wagan, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Jose Mosquera/ Mexican	Plant Manager for Mfrs
5.	HAMLIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION 1000 Mc. Wahan, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Weiner Boss/ Chinese	Sewing Technician
6.	SAGE INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINE, INC. LPT, Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Kiyoshi Nagahiro/ Japanese	Vice President
7.	ON SUNG PRECISION (PHILS.), INC. 1000 Phase I, Cavite	Mr. Kim Dok Bae/ Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR., CESO III
Regional Director

Ailing JAL scrambles to assure passengers

TOKYO—JAPAN AIRLINES SOUGHT TO reassure the travelling public yesterday that it will keep flying despite declaring bankruptcy as its share price dropped to a new record low of just over US cents.

The debt-laden carrier apologized in full-page newspaper advertisements for causing "tremendous worries to customers" and promised that "JAL will keep flying" and that passengers' air miles will remain valid.

"We must be reassured and not see us before," the company pleaded.

The once iconic airline, a symbol of Japan Inc in prospering fled for bankruptcy protection Tuesday with $25 billion in debt in the country's biggest post-war corporate failure outside the financial sector.

It is set to undergo a painful overhaul under a new corporate chief, with more than 15,000 jobs to be cut, reducing the workforce by a third, and many low-making routes expected to be shelved.

JAL, which carries more than 90 million passengers a year, is set to receive almost $10 billion in public funds and emergency loans under a three-year turnaround plan.

Cabin crew have changed their inflight announcements, now reminding passengers that the airline is "striving for an early revival." She told the post-weekend passengers of the JAL group," a cabin attendant said in a choked voice as she rehearsed the announcements before television cameras at a meeting at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will delist JAL shares by Feb. 20, a move expected to wipe out shareholders' investments.

JAL shares closed at a new record low of (ten yen (two) (ten cents), down three yen or 60 percent from Tuesday.

The company has made an announcement regarding its tie-up talks with American and Delta Air Lines, which are in a bidding war for a slice of the ailing flying to lucrative Asian landing slots.

The government has tapped Kazuo Inamori, a 77-year-old entrepreneur and ordained Buddhist monk, to steer the ratcheting-flailing to overhaul, replacing Haruka Nishimatsu, who resigned as president Tuesday.

JAL's woes, analysts said, are the result of years of bad management, high costs stretching back to its days as a state-owned flag carrier as well as government pressure to service unprofitable routes to small domestic airports. /AFP

Access to banks improving despite closures, BSP says

By Michelle V Remo

DESPITE THE RECENT SPATE OF BANK closures, access to banking services continues to grow because of sustained efforts of leading banks to branch out.

According to Nestor Espenilla Jr., deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the public should not be overly concerned with the recent closures of rural banks, saying the failed banks represented just a small portion of the banking sector.

"Based on the criteria on availability of banking services, we [country's banking sector] are doing fine," Espenilla said.

He noted that while there are fewer banks nationwide, the number of bank branches has risen.

Data from the central bank showed that as of end-October 2009, there were about 7,350 bank branches nationwide, up from 7,000 at the end of 2008.

This is despite the decline in the number of banks, from an estimated 5,700 in 2007 to about 5,600 in 2008 and 6,500 in 2009.

There were now 30 rural banks closed down by the BSP last year mostly due to capital inadequacy. There were on top of the 12 hungry-owned rural banks ordered closed by the BSP in December 2008.

The BSP earlier said it wants stronger banks to buy out weaker ones, saying such a move will make the banking sector healthier.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-95-97 • 929-80-74

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 167-1)
Series of 2010 . . . . .)

SUBJECT: Amending Section 1 [g] of FAO 167

SECTION 1. Section 1 [g] of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 167-1, s. 1987, is hereby amended to read as follows:

g. Marine Species

1.	Paralytic shellfish poison (Method: mouse bioassay)	Php 800.00
2.	Amnesic shellfish poison (Method: HPLC)	Php 2,500.00
3.	Diarrheic shellfish poison (Method: mouse bioassay)	Php 2,000.00
4.	Ciguatera fish poison (Method: immunoassay)	Php 4,000.00
5.	Tetrodotoxin (Method: mouse bioassay)	Php 800.00
6.	Pesticide analysis (Light Microscopy)	Php 800.00

SECTION 2. Effectivity – This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and / or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED THIS 12th DAY Jan. 2010, AT QUEZON CITY, METROPOLITAN MANILA, PHILIPPINES.

ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary

MA. A. ADORA
Officer-In-Charge
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

SALVADOR S. SALCEDO
OIC, Undersecretary for Fisheries and Livestock
Chairman, NFARMC

Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Food

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Culinary arts courses combined with life skills/C3

'Bistek' Peruvian style

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

By Norma G. Chikiamco
Contributor

DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LOS ANGELES, we ate in a Peruvian restaurant that had been highly recommended by a friend of my husband. It was just a small, unpretentious restaurant but there was a long line of customers waiting to get in. And no wonder. The food was superb and the prices reasonable. My daughter has since brought her friends to that place, and they were all just as pleasantly surprised to discover how delicious Peruvian cuisine can be.

Last week, I had the chance to try Peruvian food again—this time in Resto, Dusit Thani Hotel's all-day dining restaurant. Not this Peruvian food festival, that is. Instead, chef Marcia Velasco Tristan, who has created a department of some of Resto's best-loved dishes. These include *ceviche mixto*, a mixture of fish and seafood steeped in vinegar and spices, which is very similar to the Filipino dish of kinilaw. The buffet of Peruvian food, available in Resto until Jan. 20, also serves *causa a la criolla*, or cold tortillas or tostadas topped with onion relish; *arroz con pato* (rice with duck); quinoa-crusted prawns with passion fruit sauce; and a popular Peruvian dessert called *suspiro limeño de chocolate* (loosely translated, it means three-milk chocolate cake).

From chef Marcia, we learned that Peru has 4,000 varieties of potatoes, some of which grow thousands of meters above sea level. Carapulcra *con chanchos*, one of the dishes being served on the buffet table during the festival, is a pork stew that uses tiny, three-bite potatoes that grow in the Andes. After being harvested, the potatoes are put in the cold store for them to be preserved before being freeze-dried.

Here's a recipe for a popular Peruvian dish: lomo saltado, beef marinated in vinegar mixture then cooked with onions and tomatoes. As is typical of Peruvian cuisine, the dish includes lots of potatoes. (Dusit Thani's Peruvian Food Festival was until Jan. 20. The buffet is P1,200 net per person for lunch and P1,400 net for dinner; there's also *al mantenol* juices, and *anticuchos*, toast beers and sodas. For reservations, call 887-3333 or e-mail dtcm@dusit.com.)

LOMO Saltado

Lomo Saltado

3-4 servings

Where I kitchen-tested this recipe and served it for dinner, my very picky family liked it, so I've now added it to my list of reliable dishes. It's a welcome change from the usual Asian Tagalog, with vinegar, instead of calamansi, being the souring agent. It's great served with fine rice.

600 grams beef tender loin or beef sirloin, sliced into serving pieces about ½ inch thick

3-4 c white vinegar

3 tbsp soy sauce

2 tbsp cooking oil

1 large onion, sliced into ½ inch strips

2 large tomatoes, sliced into ½ inch strips, seeds removed

salt and pepper

1 finger chili

2 tbsp cooking butter

French fries (store-bought or homecooked)

Marinate beef in a combination of white vinegar and soy sauce for at least one hour. When ready to cook, drain meat from marinade and remove marinade. In a skillet, heat cooking oil to medium and brown the beef on both sides. With a slotted spoon, remove beef from heat and set aside.

Reheat oil in same skillet, adding a little more oil if necessary. Sauté onion strips until transparent then add tomatoes and continue sautéing until tomatoes start to soften. Return beef to skillet and pour in reserved marinade. Add finger chili. Cook until beef is of desired doneness (medium or well-done). Sprinkle with soy sauce during last minute of cooking.

Transfer to a serving platter and top with cooked French fries.

Tips

+To marinating the beef for more than one hour, keep covered in the refrigerator to prevent spoilage.

+The original recipe for this dish uses *aji amarillo*, a Peruvian yellow pepper. Since that's not available, finger chili (the kind used for *sinigang*) can be substituted.

+For more than two servings or for extra generosity, use more beef.

+Fry the leftover French fries (or refrigerate if serving leaves it dented). The serving leaves add a nice refreshing flavor.

Tea and juice can remedy holiday hangover

HERE IT IS, PART THREE OF OUR Wellness Series on Kitchen Rescue for the month of January. I lend my culinary voice again to Dr. Christine Gonzalez-NMD, PhD, co-founder, Wellness Institute; director, Natural Medicine.

Teas and juices

Two types of tea preparation:

Infusion — made from leaves, flowers and light material. Per 1-2 tsp. herbal tea material add 8 oz. boiling water in 8-9 oz size cup. Add tightly bulked water and allow it to steep for 5-10 minutes. For a more "medicinal" effect, steep 15-20 minutes. Keep refrigerated for 24 hours. An infusion is steeply bolder steeped in hot water.

Decoction — made from bark, roots, seeds, twigs and berries. Per 1-2 tbsp of cut bark, seed, root, bark, etc. into a pot of 16-32 oz of water and allow to sit in non-boiled water for at least 5-10 minutes. Let on stove and bring to a slow boil, then turn down to a simmer for 10-20 minutes. Strain and drink. Refrigerated, it will keep for about 72 hours. A decoction is bolder boiled in water. When you simmer cinnamon sticks and cloves in apple cider, you're making a decoction.

Important notes

■ Brew herbal teas in a ceramic or glass teapot. It is best to use distilled water (for dissolving out the therapeutic properties of the herbs) or spring water. Use only organic herbs and spices. Fresh or dried herbs equally give full flavor and aroma.

■ Blend fresh or dried chamomile flowers and lavender for a soothing tea. Add 1 tbsp dried or 2 tbsp fresh lavender and chamomile. Add to 1 cup distilled water. Steep 5-7 minutes. Add raw, organic honey to enhance the flavors of the herbs.

For a restful sleep:

■ Mix ½ cup dried red rose petals, 2 tbsp dried lemon balm and 1 tbsp dried rosemary. Steep 1 tsp in 1 cup boiling distilled water for 5-7 minutes.

■ Layered tea is best for upper respiratory condition, healthy reproductive system, three tridens (spagilic) tea regulates blood sugar, keeps liver healthy, Moringa tea boosts the immune system, as do ginger and turmeric. Add 2 tbsp each turmeric and ginger to 2 cups distilled water. Heat to a slow boil. Lower heat, simmer 30 minutes. Strain, add fresh lemon juice and raw honey as needed. Drink tea makes kidneys healthy.

Fresh vegetable juices

A glass of fruit and vegetable juice takes very little digestion. Easy. It goes right into your body. We look at juices in the same ways a doctor would look at an IV. It's something that can go right into the bloodstream.

Dosage: 1-1.5 cups or 4-6 oz per serving daily

Two common kinds of juices:

1. Medicate—flowers, chamomile, marjoram. The moisturizing juices operates at a slower speed. It draws the fibers and breaks up the cells of vegetables and fruits. You get more fiber, enzymes, vitamins and trace minerals.

2. Centrifugal—The centrifugal juicer first grinds the fruit and veg. stuffers (bark, pulp, fiber, etc.) through the strainer by spinning at a very high rpm. Faster oxidation and you lose at least 40 percent of the vitamins, minerals and enzymes.

Note: For the Philippines, the best buy is moisture juicer. It maintains and is reasonably priced.

Additional fruit juice makers called, fresh pasta, almond and cashew milk machines.

Preparing raw vegetables and fruits for juicing. It is best to use organic veg. stuffers and baked and wheat powders.

Processing non-organic vegetables and fruits:

■ Soak in the saline and store tap and purification and disinfectant agent for fresh produce and water treatment; the energies and more ideal antiviral, antibacterial, fungicide, disinfectant, detoxify agent, germicide, antiseptic, distillent and insecticide agent. After washing thoroughly, cause the fruits and vegetables for 15-20 minutes.

■ If coconut is not available—after scrubbing and washing

TEA AND/C3

The Maya Kitchen

A Celebration of Love and Luck

Luscious cakes, tempting chocolate, classic Chinese dishes, mouthwatering dimsum. Learn how to prepare them all at The Maya Kitchen Cooking Classes. Treat someone special to a delicious meal at home. Call 0917-TMK-MAYA (0917-856-6292) or 0908-TMK-MAYA (0908-856-6292) and The Chinese New Year.

Learn and bond recipes for savory & sweet dishes for guests or family, or your own food business, these 90- 120 and 180 minutes preparation are yourself with TESDA accredited courses. Enroll now!

Seminar Hotline/Back Enrollment & Schedule Online:

Jan. 30 (Fri) | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cheesecake Bar Workshop: Baked, Steamed or Frozen Pick Customized Chocolate Dips | Fun Bars in Pieces sauce, Fudge Plan P1,500

Coffee 101: Jan. 30 (Fri) | 2:30-5:30 p.m. Coffee History, Coffee Process, World-shooting, Machine Preparation, Cupping, Tasting Techniques to experience fresh. Preparation of popular Coffee Concoctions: Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, Spice, etc. P1,500

Chocolate Class: Feb. 6 (Sat) | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Yema Chocolate Surprise, Fruit-Filled Truffles, Chocolate Peanut Lovers, Chocolate Fudge Bars, Chocolate Brownies, Chocolate Macaroons, Molded Chocolates, Almond Floss. P2,000

Quick and Classic Pastries Lamay: Feb. 6 (Sat) | 2-5 p.m. Dulce de Leche Cakes w/ unprocessed cream, Fruit Tartlet Cake, Apple Roll Cream Cake, Cappuccino, Chocolate Brownies, Strawberry Shortcake, Black Forest Log Cake w/ buttercream frosting & special Flavors! Impress everyone w/ your authority by Mayan Mom. Photo Opportunity. P1,500

Desserts 4 Friends: Feb. 20 (Fri) | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Spinach Crackling w/ wasabi dressing, Buffalo wings, Creamy Mushroom Carbonara Pasta, Vegetarian Dish, Tater Dish, Onion Rings w/ garlic mayo dip, Banana Spanish Coconut Rice. P1,500

Chinese New Year Cooking Class: The Food Teacher/Tina 09064.3139 Pm. Cooper, Hans Reyes, Fely Encarnacion, Curry Set, Chicken Feet & Shrimp w/ texture on gold analysis. P1,200

Chinese Evening Dessert Class: Feb. 27 (Fri) | 6 p.m.-1 p.m. Pete Tin, Chinese Lumpia, Kaiteki, Pork Spareribs w/ Black Beans, Roast Chicken w/ Peking Duck, Yam Rice. P1,200

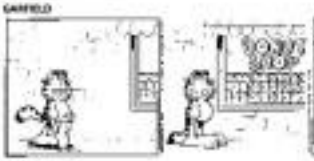
Dimsum Basics Workshop: Feb. 27 (Fri) | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Pan de sal, Empanada, Mango Bread, Pizza Dough, Chocolate Bread. Containers that or lecture on commercial-scale production using Baker's Percentage. P1,000

For Cooks, Bakers and F&B Service Personnel: Jumpstart your career or these TESDA Accredited Courses or certificate (pre-registration required.)

Basic Culinary: Jan. 26-29 Feb. 9-11 & 16 Feb. 25-28 (TTH) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Cooking Principles/Methods, Knife Skills, Kitchen Equipment, Food Safety, Hygiene, Sanitation & Safety, Introduction to Menu & Commercial-scale production of recipes & formulations of quick breads, cookies, cakes & basic cuisine. P5,000

Advanced Culinary: Feb. 10-13 (M-T) 12:30-5:30 p.m. Technical aspects of cooking from setting of a system for food safety (HACCP) plant layouts, menu forms, recipe formulations, quantity production, standard serving portions, computing average cost of beverage, vegetables, meats & sea foods, quantity food preparation, and food presentation. Prerequisite: Basic Culinary. Advanced Baking & Pastry Course: Feb. 23-27 (T-F) 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 10 hrs. or On-line Job Training Coverage: Coffee Varieties, Types of coffee plants, Brewing techniques, Espresso Machine, Actual preparation of the 4 Coffee Concoctions, Coffee Latte Art, Tasting & Tasting of raw, Brewing, Tasting & Tasting of raw, Brewing, Tasting & Tasting of raw, Brewing

GARFIELD



A. LIPIN BY JEG ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOWKANOTS BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULOKBI BY HARIA COLI

BEH BY DANIEL SHELTON

ATOMIC AND WEEDY BY VINA GARCELLANO

KIBO MACHINE BY HANS ABRERA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dan Feyes

	5	6
	2 7	
3	1	4
5 6	8	4
3 1 9		
7	5	2 9
9	1	3
5	4	
8		7

This one's ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	4	5	7	8	3	9	6
9	3	6	4	2	1	8	5	7
5	8	7	3	9	6	1	2	4
1	5	8	2	6	9	4	7	3
7	9	2	8	3	4	5	6	1
4	6	3	1	5	7	9	8	2
8	2	5	7	1	3	6	4	9
6	7	1	9	4	5	2	3	8
3	4	9	6	8	2	7	1	5

Culinary arts courses combined with life skills

By Ivana Perez

PROFESSIONALIZE YOUR PASSION for food, team up with celebrity chefs and even land a job in popular restaurants after only eight months of attending culinary school.

Global City Innovative College offers Diplomate in Culinary Arts, an eight-month program which combines demo classes, hands-on, practical knowledge, field trips, culinary competitions, community service, career development seminars and chef mentoring. Enrollment is ongoing until this week.

Subjects include classical cooking, international and Asian cuisine, quantitative cooking, barbecuing, baking and pastry, restaurant and catering business, nutrition, safety and sanitation, product identification, purchasing and cost control, and event management.

The culinary school in Fairview, Avenue in Bridal City is a few minutes away from the main GCIC campus in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig. Having a reputation building from the main school allows for a full facilities with well-equipped kitchen laboratory, computer, library and classrooms.

CHEF Nancy Dizon-Edrinky, GCIC Culinary Arts department head, and her students

GCIC president Mike Tan

GLOBAL City Innovative College's culinary school in Fairview Avenue in Makati has a well-equipped kitchen laboratory and offers enhanced cooking modules.

Diploma-to-degree program

GCIC initially offered Nursing in 2002. It now has Tourism, Hospitality, Information Technology, Management and Accountancy courses. Culinary Arts was introduced in 2007. And starting this year, GCIC offers a Diploma-to-Degree Program that allows students to fully credit their culinary arts diploma and continue it to a hospitality management course to earn a bachelor's degree.

What makes GCIC different from other culinary schools, aside from enhanced teaching modules, are incorporation of "life skills," says president Michael Tan. These life skills will equip graduates with practical opportunities in dealing with money, as well as basic job interviews and resume writing, and even other challenges—things that aren't usually taught in academe. In addition, its all-English policy is also enforced all over the campus to sharpen communication abilities.

"We build not just competency, but character as well. We insist on proper attitude, confidence and professionalism. Just what the industry needs," Tan adds.

Culinary arts

Chef Nancy Dizon-Edrinky heads the GCIC Culinary Arts department. She is a business management graduate who finished culinary courses at Cypress College Hotel in California and Culinary Institute of America, and took lessons in Bangkok as well.

The soft-spoken chef had a full catering service in LA, but after staying there for 25 years decided to go back to the Philippines to share her expertise to Filipinos.

Edrinky had taught in culinary schools in California and is here on professionalizing would be Filipino chefs.

"We have partnerships with known chefs like Belinda Locsin of Blue Bistro and Tina del Rosario of Orchids. My students take their internship in these restaurants, as well as in 101 Grill and Cuneta, and hotels like Diamond Hotel, Discovery Suites and Shangri-La Hotel in Makati. Some get their training as weekend in Hyatt Hotel," she said.

The eight-month program starts off with a three-month course, followed by 1 ½-month on-the-job training, another three-month lecture, and another 1 ½-month immersion. Edrinky says students who perform well are eventually taken to as employees after their OJT.

Chef Edrinky and her students recently participated in the holiday cooking showdown "A Feast for Christmas" at SMX Hall in SM Mall of Asia in Pasay.

Students Judith Rubio Mascardo and Jeremy Quesos de Belen Pico Pico were both appetizer; Hermann Billy Francis Hangang as Canadian as Grevasa got best soup; and Inna Maria Eguiron's Bebe Rides bagged best dessert.

Consultants were Lasalleo for food preparation and Japanese columnist Rosa Pinto Batiles for table setting.

"Each class has only around 25 students, to make sure the instructors are focused on each student. You have to be strict but nurturing at the same time," adds Edrinky.

GCIC also offers Practical Professional Courses, an intensive one-week program focused on basic cooking and baking, perfect for hobbyists, hotel and restaurant management students, parents, nursing chefs and household cooks. Cooking classes for kids will also be offered for summer.

Affordable education

GCIC students are encouraged to hone their own style and practice their creativity, enabling, paving resources to detail, and working under pressure and time constraints. The rest the school offers lower rates per unit than other schools, giving students value for money education—something parents would also appreciate.

Celebrity students include Isagani Dungganbun who had cooking classes, while Miss Earth 2004 Priscilla Meneses took up Pharmacy.

One recommendation now of promoting consumerists among students is dividing the population into boxes. Harry Dizon says: Instead of a factory, like the ending of the student room her determines which House a student belongs to. Three Houses, named after Greek gods and goddesses, compete with each other in campus contests, and all to bond together for thirty weeks, friendly banners and school parties.

Global City Innovative College starts campus is at Bonifacio Technology Center 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, with the Culinary Center at GCIC International Suites, 2187-A Kalayaan Ave., Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati. Call 7575566 #1, www.gcic.edu.ph.

Crispy Prawns with Thai Sweet Chili Sauce

½ a medium-size prawns
½ a cornstarch
½ tsp curry powder
½ tsp five-spice powder
½ tsp salt
1/8 tsp salt (optional)
½ tsp ground black pepper
Vegetable oil for frying
½ cup bell pepper
½ cup sliced onions
½ cup onion
½ cup sweet chestnuts
Cilantro for garnish
Thai Sweet Chili Sauce

Prepare shell sauce at least eight hours or up to three days in advance. Refrigerate.

Peel and devein prawns. Drain on a plate lined with several layers of paper towels. Combine cornstarch, curry powder, five-spice, salt and pepper; spread on a plate.

RECIPE by Chef Nancy Edrinky

Heat oil into a skillet to a depth of about two inches. Heat over medium-high heat to 375 degree.

Coat about four prawns at a time in the cornstarch mixture. Fry in batches for about one minute or until golden, cooked and cooked through. Remove prawns to a slotted spoon or paper towels lined baking sheet.

Sprinkle remaining 1 tbsp. spray salt over prawns. Stir fry bell pepper, onion leaves, onions, water chestnuts then add to the prawns. Garnish with cilantro and serve with Thai Sweet Chili Sauce.

Thai Sweet Chili Sauce

A red sweet or Thai chilies, seeded and very finely minced
3 medium cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
¼ cup fish sauce
¼ cup rice vinegar
¼ cup water
1/3 cup sugar

Combine chilies and garlic with fish sauce, vinegar, water and sugar in a saucepan; whisk well to blend.

Place saucepan on medium-high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook about 15 minutes or until sauce has lightly thickened.

Let cool, then taste for a sweet-sour balance. Store in a clean jar in refrigerator until ready to use.

From 'duckquitos,' beef with black fungus to 'inihaw' spare ribs, breaded fish fillet

CITY FOLKS ARE INUNDATED WITH SO many dining places, making it rather difficult to choose where to have a truly satisfying meal matched with efficient service. Within the last two weeks, we chose two, each one in a different end of the metropolis.

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

Henry's Place by Good Earth (cor. E-O-S, Rizal Drive corner West Crescent Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila; tel. 8947566-67; Good Earth has established a reputation for good food immediately after it opened shop two decades ago in Bonifacio Village. Today, its newest venture is the one at The Fort, carrying the name of owner-chef Henry.

Dining area—The second floor is ideal for considerably large family lunches and dinners. Décor is minimalist, ambiance, pleasant.

Service—Fast and efficient. Menus handed out as soon as being seated.

Staff—Friendly without being overbearing.

Suggested menu—Chef Henry's favorites are available, but the menu has been expanded. To start with, there is Dashguisa or Stuffed Eggplant (good), Asian Ocean Salad of greens with seaweed, Inasal, Tuscan, the Crispy Pata (Fried) with chicken, beef or seafood, Popeye's Delight, steamed fillet of lapu-lapu with Tatsuso bean is highly recommended, just as Mimi's Brownie, pork steamed and boiled, Steel as one" by Steamed Duck, Hong Kong Style or Beef with Black Pangasi and Broccoli. Black pudding for dessert is a good choice, just like the Coffee Jelly.

Branch cards are honored and prices are inclusive of 12 percent VAT.

Rating

Pig Out, Your Family's Grill House in Hensil, Sta Rosa, tel. 049-5026049. This is a close restaurant of the Friday's chain. While its name suggests eating big, they portions are not so. Perhaps they aim to have dinner eater meals more than Party-sized meals either than "pig out" as one or two dishes. However, the menu includes Pig Out Crispy Duo.

Dining area—Friday's, rugged, informal. There are small Lotto cards and wheels on tables which diners can play with while waiting for orders to be served.

Service—Kids are given plastic toy pens and spoon rides in the waiting area. There's coordinated service between staff inside and those outside by drivers.

Staff—They suggest their chatting routine.

Suggested menu—Dishes as Spare Ribs Adobo Style (which should have Bicol Express high, Breaded Deep Fish Fillet (that day it was not very fresh), Beef Ribs Roman Style with spicy and sweetish sauce, Hamburger, BBQ, Spaghetti and Fried Chicken Combo for kids. Having opened very recently, not everything in their menu card is available such in the Spicy Lamb Under 'M Meals. Banana Turon and Apple Pie are among the sweets.

They offer healthy drinks that combine Diets and vegetables.

Service charge is added, senior cards are honored.

Rating

Fine stubborn passengers

THE CONSUMER
Linda E. Bello

SOMETIME LAST year, there was an online report about a passenger who was met by policemen in an American airport as soon as the plane landed and "escorted" for questioning.

Apparently, the man completely ignored the crew crew's instruction to turn off mobile phones until the passengers had reached the terminal, destination. Instead, he called his office several times in full facility with well-equipped kitchen laboratory, computer, library and classrooms.

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3 medium cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
¼ cup fish sauce
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Let cool, then taste for a sweet-sour balance. Store in a clean jar in refrigerator until ready to use.

Tea and juice...

From page C3

chop roughly, soak produce in a gallon of tepid water with 1/3 drop of vinegar for 15 minutes. This method will not guarantee the removal of pesticides. Emphasize from the produce.

- After processing and cleaning the produce, you are ready to juice. To emphasize all important vitamins, mineral and nutritious juice and drink immediately.

Source: Juice and smoothie—Global Mail Source, tel. 8421078/8520808/0947826678# / www.globalmailsource.com

Dr. C's Super Energy Soup

1 1/4 cups fresh corn or juice (5-7) 1 avocado, peeled and cored removed
½ cup of fresh Monkey cashews
1/2 cup ground tumeric
Tumeric add any of the following, chopped basil, ground mustard, beets or fruits organic cucumber, celery
Process in a blender.
Taste until smooth.
Pour the mixture into a single soup bowl, and chill until ready to serve.

(To be continued)

In February, I will be in Davao to teach and to conduct my Wholesome Culinary Program Trial. Reservations are ongoing. To register and for a copy of my 2013 Cooking Class Schedules, call 0289129#6 / 0273888-6474# or / 0905-2372345.

E-mail the author—superandthegodess.com.ph.

Fine stubborn passengers

THE CONSUMER
Linda E. Bello

SOMETIME LAST year, there was an online report about a passenger who was met by policemen in an American airport as soon as the plane landed and "escorted" for questioning.

Apparently, the man completely ignored the crew crew's instruction to turn off mobile phones until the passengers had reached the terminal, destination. Instead, he called his office several times in the United States to authorities to not take kindly to behavior like this.

I write local aviation authorities—and please note—will be equally diligent in enforcing rules governing the use of mobile phones in domestic flights.

Coming back from Cagayan de Oro recently I could hear sounds of text messages being received by cellular phones that had obviously not been turned off, as the cabin attendants announced. And just after the cabin crew reminded everyone phones should remain turned off as the plane prepared to land, somebody behind me was already yakking on her mobile, announcing to her welcoming committee that she had arrived. The cabin attendants could not even stand up yet and were still strapped to their chairs when the woman turned on her cell phone.

I am always amazed at how Filipinos seemingly could not live a minute without their mobile phones even for a few seconds. Not so long ago, they did not think they were missing anything when they could not communicate with anybody for even longer than the hour and a half it took to fly from CEBU to Manila. In fact, many Filipinos did not even have landlines and yet very few felt they were cut off from the rest of the world because they did not have phones.

But now you would think everybody is considering important financial transactions involving millions that he/she could not have left that mobile phone for just an hour or so.

Perhaps we should follow the example of American authorities and make failure to follow instructions by the cabin crew an offense punishable by imprisonment or a huge fine. If forced to these measures will not keep these people from using their phones when they are not supposed to, perhaps the knowledge that it will cost them—a lot—will keep quarrelsome.

Erratum

My apologies to the list of establishments that offer the BPI Express Credit Card Special Installment Plan (SIP). I mentioned Robinsons Department Store and Supermarket. I was informed Robinsons Supermarket does not offer SIP. What I thought was a misprint was actually correct—the establishment offering SIP is Robinsons Department Store & Supermarket, which is somewhere in the Bicol Region.

BPI said, for more convenient details, the nearest branch of the SIP was in Pili.

If you are a BPI credit card holder and are thinking of using SIP, it is best to check with BPI first if the establishment where you plan to shop is on their SIP list to know the amortization.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1998 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Maceda and Yague Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 8974705/8974706; or e-mail lbello@inquirer.com.ph.

Free tiramisu promo

DINING OUT

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN offers free serving of Tiramisu when guests order from a selection of DPKA Neapolitan pizza or Specialty dishes, upon presentation of the flier. The promo runs from January 20 to 22 at all CPK branches. Call California Pizza Kitchen at 897-2115 to 16 (Metro Manila Ex.), 8908777 (Centro de los Patriotas, Alabang Town Center), 8557841 to 42 (Shangri-La Plaza Mall), 7251777 (Ali Mall-Araneta Coliseum), 981 0881 to 82 (Trinoma), 8882446 (Power Plant Mall, Rockwell), and 4011160 (Greenbelt 3).

Roasted shiitake

Diamond Hotel's Restaurant La Veranda offers Businessmen's Set Lunch, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. The Businessmen's Set Lunch offers Penne Rosa and Feta Cheese Salad with Sliced Sirloin Steak with Red Onions, Garden Greens, Scallions and Anchovy with Basil Oil, or Angus Cut Cream Soup with Cream Cheese Foam and Garlic Chips, Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breast with Mango or Grilled Tanigue Steak, all Php 595nett. Call 5250888 or 5252888, e-mail lvcater@diamondhotel.com; visit www.diamondhotel.com.

Lobsters and crabs

Diamond Hotel's Palm Court Café presents Seafood Nights, featuring lobsters, crabs, scallops, mussels, shrimps, prawns and fish entrées. Call 5250000 or 5252000; e-mail lvcater@diamondhotel.com; visit www.diamondhotel.com.

SEAFOOD EMAKOL

Kabisera ng Dansai's offers Steamed Lobster Lemon Marsh, Bringhe, Seafood Binakol. Kabisera ng Dansai's is at Bonifacio High Street in Taguig; tel. 8560942, 8560940.

DONATELLO'S SPECIAL

Chef Donatello offers baby servings of Risotto, pizza, ribs, burgers, Italian-style pasta, pizza dishes at affordable prices. Its bestsellers are Marinated Ribs, Chef Donatello burgers, Pasta Marinara, Bolognese, Lasagna, Donatello Special, All Meat Supreme and Pepperoni. Chef Donatello has branches in SM Megamall, Pupcon, Angeles City, Pampanga and Tagaytay.

Celebrate Dinagyang at SM City Iloilo

Leo Bolitoy captures the festival dancer in his native costume during the Dinagyang dance.

A dinagyang dancer in honor of Sto. Niño in a street dance during the Dinagyang Festival

Considered the Best Festival in the country for three consecutive years by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines, this year's Dinagyang Festival brings more entertainment by celebrating the history and culture of Iloilo as center of mestizo of SM City Iloilo.

The Dinagyang is a religious and cultural festival held in Iloilo every fourth Sunday of January in honor of the Santo Niño. Kalos celebrates the arrival of Malay settlers in Panay who bore Buddy bought the island to the city.

The festival began in 1967 when Rev. Fr. Antonio Ouimido introduced the devotion to the Santo Niño in his congregation. In 1968, Fr. Ouimido brought a replica of the original image of the Santo de Cebu to Iloilo as a gift to the people of Iloilo. The festival, which Santo Niño devotees to Iloilo, started to give the image a fitting reception. At that time, thousand crowd the airport and lined the streets entirely.

To assist tourists coming to the province, a Tourism Information Center was soon set up for inquiries regarding Dinagyang and other tourism related activities. The Tourism Desk, which is in partnership with the Department of Tourism (R), the Iloilo City Tourism and Development Office, the Association of Iloilo Travel and Tour Operators, and the Iloilo Hotels, Inns, and Restaurants Association, will be at the mall until January 31.

A Dinagyang Arts Festival showcasing different art forms will highlight the festivities. Organized by the Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation, Inc., it will be held from January 11–21 at the Centro Iloilo, culminating in a painting competition on January 21 from 10AM to 5:00 PM.

The Photographic Society of Iloilo will hold an exhibit showcasing Dinagyang through the years from the 1970s to the present. This will be held from January 11–24 at the Ground Floor.

Dinagyang will have a chance to display options. On weekdays, there's the Executive Set Lunch. On Saturdays and Sundays, were package is waiver for up to two buffets, per person through the Dining Tour Free Wine promo. Call 832 7888 or 910 8888 ext. 8888. Email Diamond Joy Monday Center Manila at 11 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

Baby back ribs

Classic Centro at Eton Antipolo, SM Shangri-La Plaza Mall Ortigas (tel. 656-5678) and BE Bonifacio High Street Taguig (tel. 4180) offers baby back ribs, fish and chips, pasta, pizza, mediterranean paninis, sliders, New Zealand Mussels, clams, sausages, steak, oven on a rock, baby potatoes.

Tuna belly

Congo Grille offers basically, pork barbecue, visitors to mingle around Italian chicken, sausages or a long cut along cuisine, or various indigenous bahale, Asian soup, cream of seafood soup. Congo Grill is at El Pueblo Ortigas, Westgate Alabang, SM Fairview, SM San Lazaro, SM Santa Rosa, SM Mall of Asia, SM Southmall, Tomas Morato, Trinoma, Shopaholic Annex Center and SM Clark. Call 3667284 or 3675436.

BAKED MUSSELS

The Corinthian's Mussel and Co. (QE Boulevard McKinley) offers mussels served with tomato-onion-garlic wine and fresh cream, sprinkled with chopped herbs.

D-rump is secret ingredient in culinary tilt's winning courses

PARTICIPATING BARISTA Ela Rita Blue in the Culinary Challenge

WHEN THE INVERSION came to science The Black Box Culinary Challenge, it seemed appropriate I attended such an event. The last one was about four years ago and hotels and independent restaurants were competing in a cook-off inside a ballroom.

The Black Box is a project of the Meat and Livestock Australia, an organization composed of producers who provide R&D and marketing services for the red meat industry. It uses chefs as, literally, to contain the seven ingredients which the 11 competitors will have to use in the main dish of their courses. The box will also hold the names of the winners in the end.

Bec cubbe the previous challenges, the 2010 version doesn't have the name of cooking. That's what surprised me as I entered the foodwell tent. The ingredients was revealed the day before and their recipes were written. The cooking was done by the respective kitchens of the competitors. Those were brought to the site for judging and then diners followed where each of the institutions involved had two tables for their guests to taste their creation.

For a food writer, it's the cooking that gives competitions drama. Especially when there's a time limit. This on the spot set up will show how talented and how coordinated the team is. To be told that there was to be no cooking on site was a relief, as well, at least we get to taste some of the dishes.

Food writers were assigned to certain tables and each competitor assisted guests in the event. My place was at the Malcolmberg Palace table. My next surprise was seeing Luigi Bertoia as part of the group. He is the husband of Loli Arroyo and is in the procurement — son-in-law. Where I now him the first time he was part of the Slow Food Movement in Manila and then later he was part of the group that organized the Food Symposium on training Food as the Iglesia Library.

Apart from Malcolmberg Palace, the participants included three hotels (Makati Shangri-La, Manila Pavilion, Shangri-La), an airline catering company (MarenAsia); three restaurants (Tempo Fusion Centre, Triple Five, Lolo Enzo's Café Manila), and three schools (Centro Escolar University, College of the Holy Spirit, Enderun College). At the Black Box, students can be joined with professionals.

Secret ingredient

The secret ingredient was D-rump, the lamb part of the beef that is one of the less tender cuts. But subtle that was important to use in the main course, all the other courses were an important because the hot ingredient in the entrées were mixed. Included in the scoring was the table arrangement.

Best appetizer went to Malcolmberg Palace which was a Gin, rye braised lamb shoulder with crispy potatoes and aspic of fruit, dairy and vegetables.

Best soup was Lolo Enzo's Pepper Beef Caponata on Spiced Brioche with Pesto Rapuzzo Marmalata was for its main course of Braised Beef in Pan Wine Sauce and Soya Potato.

The best dessert is was Makati Shangri-La's entry with the very long description—Chocolate Tart, in Rum Mousse with Candied Clementine in Chocolate Tuile on Nectarine Marshmallow Mango Coriander Pudding with Mango-Passion Fruit Foam, Pistachio Lava Cake with Coffee and Blueberry Cherry Compote and Spiced Truffle. Just imagine a mousse, cake and pudding all on one plate. The hotel also won for its table setting.

By the most awaited announcement last night was the top three overall winners. The Black Box revealed Makati Shangri-La as first place, Lolo Enzo's Bistro as second place and Manila Hotel as third place.

The team of Makati Shangri-La will be going to the finals of the Black Box Culinary Challenge. So—no one will see where that will be though there were guesses like Chile, Korea and, another surprise, Manila.

In 2008, the Cook was in Dubai. The participants representative was Lolo Enzo's. The place was South Korea's Grand International Food Bowl, second was Singapore's Restaurant The Standard and third was Sri Lanka's Mount Colombo.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood01@yahoo.com

Top Filipino baristas face off

THE GRAND BARISTA CUP, the search for the best baristas in the country, happens on Jan. 29–30 p.m., at the Main Hall of SM Mall of Asia. The event is organized by Allegro Beverage Corp.

Hosted by Wilton Bonnet, the Grand Barista Cup will feature games and prizes from liquid Low Calorie Sweetener, Nakka Tinto, Monin Syrups and Sauces. As a special treat for coffee lovers, two special non-competition coffees will be demonstrated and sampled out in the south court courtesy of liquid Low Calorie sweetener.

Finalists from Makati Shangri-La, The Peninsula Manila, Joe's Coffee, Coffee Bonanza, JCC Café, Kings Roaster and Epicurean of the Philippines will face off, presenting their coffee-making skills live. Winners will receive special gift packs and cash prizes, and the top three finalists will be awarded with awards, as well.

The grand champion will represent the country in the Asian Baristas Championship, which happens in April in Singapore.

A panel of international and local coffee enthusiasts will judge this year's tilt. They are Rene Bright, judge of the World Baristas Championship and master roaster of Spinelli Coffee from Singapore; Giuseppe Tessitore, export manager of Caffe Diemme from Italy; Cedric Chouvenc, managing director of Monin from France; and Hubert Yeung, president of JCC Coffee; Mimsy Tecson, president of Specialty Coffee Association of the Philippines; Robert Pengson, owner of Global Cafe; Sarah Acuinday and host of Chefs To Go, and Lee Reyes, master roaster of Gourmet Farms, will judge, as well.

The Grand Barista Cup is endorsed by the Philippine Coffee Board, the Specialty Coffee Association of the Philippines, and the Asian Baristas Championship in Singapore.

SEVEN baristas vie for the chance to represent RP in the Asian Barista Championship.

GRAND Barista Cup is on Jan. 29 at SM Mall of Asia.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Emerio S. Velarde

Happy to be herself now

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photo by Rudel Ramos

TAKE FIVE

PRINCESS Punzalan (Told-on-it-husband Willie Revillame): "I always knew he would succeed and become famous. I told him so since he just laughed."

"I WAS JUST 19 WHEN I MARRIED HIM. I didn't know what my parents tried to stop me. I didn't know when I was in for," said actress Princess Punzalan of her failed marriage to TV host Willie Revillame.

"I wasn't emotionally ready," Princess, daughter of the late show biz icon Helen Vela, admitted. She is now married to American businessman Jason Hall and based in Sta. Monica, Los Angeles, California. "When I married Jason in 2003, I was ready," she said. "I was determined to make it work. I was even willing to give up show biz to be with him."

Princess said she lost touch with her ex-husband when she left the country, but said that she and Willie have remained friends. "There's no animosity between us," she stressed.

She always knew that Willie (formerly host of ABS-CBN's top-rating noontime game show "Wowowee") would succeed and become famous, Princess said.

"When I told him that, he simply laughed," she told Inquirer Entertainment. "I remember that moment very clearly. We were at the Megamall parking lot when I had this strong impression in my heart that I had to tell him, 'You'll become so popular that people will listen to whatever you say.' He just said, 'Talaga?' A few years ago, he called to tell me that what I said might already be happening. I told him, 'Just don't forget to always be grateful to God.'"

Princess is on a break from Showbiz studies at the Sta. Monica College and is in town. She has appeared on QTV 11 shows "Sweet Life" and "Full-time Mama." She has also agreed to a short stint on the fantasy-drama show, "The Last Prince," on GMA 7.

Why did you choose Nursing instead of a course related to your work here?

I also thought of studying voice or style. I enjoy styling hair, experimenting with makeup, making other people beautiful. When I was much younger, I dreamt of becoming a doctor. I was just not willing to study 12 years for it. When I become a nurse, I'll still be using he others.

'It wasn't easy to leave the life I had here, but one goes where love is'

When you left for the United States in 2005, what was your plan?

I didn't really have a plan. I married acting when I was 9, and when I left, I was earning 6K. It was hard to leave my life here, but one goes where love is. I married a quiet life. Life/taught in the first few months ... I was disconcerted with the cold.

How did you adjust?

My husband said, "You can't stay inside the house forever; you have to go out." The first time I did go out, panic along pounds. I was more on the movie and video nights outside our window and I could only say, "Wow, my gawdd!" When we went to the upper peninsula of Michigan, one of the coldest areas in the United States, it was six degrees below zero. I saw the most amazing thing...the beach was frozen. It was breath-taking!

What helped me adjust was a good sense of what's important in life. I was happy and at peace; that's what I really wanted.

Did your being a celebrity here help in any way?

The opportunities didn't come because I was a celebrity here. That's one other thing I like about my life there. I am more comfortable dealing with people who don't recognize me. I can be myself, say whatever I want.

You're earning your bank accolades biz?

I love acting, but there's a time and a season for everything. I was in show biz in the 1980s and '90s. Right for me. What's important to me now is my husband. When I become a mom, that will be my life. Several friends are egging me to pursue an acting career there, but I'd rather have a normal life now.

How's married life?

Manageable. Most of the time, I'm just with Jay. He takes good care of me and is very open-minded. He's a bookworm. I learn a lot from him and we talk about anything. Best of all, whatever the situation, we manage to make each other laugh.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

RICHARD POON

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Top 10 films at the US box office

	Title	Gross	Wk
1	Avatar	$53.6 M	3
2	The Book of Eli	$20.8 M	2
3	The Lovely Bones	$13.0M	2
4	Alvin and the Chipmunks	$11.0 M	3
5	The Spy Next Door	$7.1 M	2
6	Sherlock Holmes	$6.1 M	4
7	It's Complicated	$4.6 M	5
8	Legion	$3.1 M	4
9	Up in the Air	$3.1 M	5
10	The Blind Side	$3.0 M	7

A junk trip...

From page D1

and was proud that the young lady in the lead is a Filipina theater actress named Gretchen Ho. Ariba Ariba, the Latin-sounding host of The Golden Mickey, cried (male) shame and energy. Where she sang "When You Wish Upon a Star" in the show's finale, she was sweet and totally on point. (My husband commented that she's got that Disney Princess sound down pat). Congratulations, Cried, for a job well-belly-done.

Party had to leave for a dinner engagement, which left the rest of us to take care of ourselves for the remainder of the afternoon. We took Sic on the Dumbo ride, stopped for a snack at the Bakery, and then took the SETR back to Sandown. Bob and I then took a quick break before getting ready to watch Gerard at the Hong Kong Cultural Center.

Opening salvo

The orchestra's opening salvo was the theme from "Star Wars," followed by music from "Schindler's List" (expertly played by instrumentalist Lenny Bin-Jiang), the "Magnificent Seven," "The Pink Panther," the "Rainy Band" series, "Come with the Wind," "Aqua, Aqua Nova" "Limelight," "Cinema Paradiso" (sublimely interpreted by principal cellist Richard Stamping), and "In the Mood for Love."

After the MGT theme song was played, Elisa Chan took the stage, belting out "Goldfinger," "You Only Live Twice," "He Heart Will Go On" and "Moon Rive," among others. She was incredibly engaging as every turn. And though I found her to be fantastic when she carried on the theme, it was when she sang "On Her Own" and "Memory" from the musical "Nine" that I was most impressed. She was single-mindedly focused and honest in her delivery.

I found out later that her husband had passed away only a couple of months before, which I'm sure lent color and texture to her rendition. I truly enjoyed every minute of her stage time.

Conrad invited Bob and me to join members of the HKPO on a junk trip which was basically a party on a boat. Following the performance, we headed to Pier 5 right behind the HKPO, boarded the boat and had ourselves a great time! It's definitely a party when you have a bunch of musicians, tons of food and drink, and an iPod full of music blaring out of the speakers. I remember gingerbread, seafood boats, Jello shots, sushi rolls, pizza, salsa music, dirty dancing, "small late big boat," a mooncandy contest and a few of us singing acoustic versions of "Wicked" at the top of our lungs. Of course the groove Jello for Free Dan Brown.

The next day friend, Rob, Mr and I headed to Central for lunch at Tsang Kee Restaurant. Tsang Kee is known for their roast goose, and for many years has been named one of Anti's top restaurants. The food was all right, I guess, but perhaps I just haven't developed a palate for goose.

Needless to say, our weekend was perfect, incorporating a lot of what we love. Great food, great music and great fun. Oh yes, we will be back.

Shameless plug

On Jan. 23 and 24 at 6:30 pm., Mrs JS will sit "four songs." The concert was filmed on Dec. 12, 2009 in high definition video, which means that everything looks awesome! Join me and my pianist Al Ai Ai for Alan, Richard Poon, Jeri Pangan and the Philippine All-stars, together with Gerard Salonga and Jillian Murdoch.

To everyone at Mrs JS, recovering and rid of

Condolences

We send our thoughts and prayers to the family, friends, and KAWASAKI colleagues of Alice Ong-Isaias, who passed away from cancer last week. She was a bright light in the world. You have my and my family's condolences.

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1 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
2 OLD BOOBS
3 ARE PARENT
4 I LOVE YOU, GOODBYE

1 OLD BOOBS
2 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
3 AVATAR
4 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
5 SHERLOCK HOLMES
6 I LOVE YOU, GOODBYE

IMUS — ANGELES

1 OLD BOOBS
2 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
3 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
4 AVATAR

1 OLD BOOBS
2 SHERLOCK HOLMES
3 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
4 THE SPY NEXT DOOR

TACLOBAN — DUMAGUETE

1 ZOMBIELAND
2 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
3 AVATAR

1 AVATAR
2 ZOMBIELAND
3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 OLD BOOBS
2 BADNADA FAMILIA
3 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
4 AVATAR
5 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
6 SHERLOCK HOLMES

1 OLD BOOBS
2 BADNADA FAMILIA
3 AVATAR
4 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
5 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION
6 SHERLOCK HOLMES

CEBU SM

1 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
2 AVATAR
3 THE REBOUND
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TV audience boost makes Golden Globes shine

NEW YORK—NBC's Golden Globes served them, hosted by British actor-comedian Ricky Gervais, drawed a little brighter in the ratings this year, according to Nielsen numbers released Monday.

The 67th Annual Golden Globe Awards had 14 percent more viewers than last year's show. The Barry-Gervais-thinking even in retrospect and drew 14.9 million viewers, beating an audience of 14.6 million down in 2009.

Originating from Los Angeles at 5 p.m. local time, the event was aired live by NBC in all time zones, other than delayed for prime time broadcast in the West, as is past years.

Not even with the audience upswing, viewership remained far below the biggest ever for the show in 2004, 20.8 million viewers, as counted in.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association bestows the awards for achievement in television and motion pictures.

Ten years ago, the awards were shortened for the Hollywood stellar clubs, which left the broadcast a third of itself, a handful for of the winners real-dazed, devoid of glitz, celebrities or controversy. Only 4 million viewers hollowed to watch.

Sunday's show got a mixed review from critics, at did the performance of its first host in 15 years.

"Not a good night for Ricky Gervais," wrote Los Angeles Times TV critic Mary McNamara.

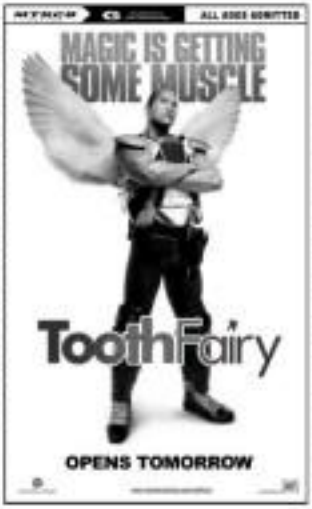
But she added that almost every winner displayed "no sin of gratitude humility." The modesty superseded a bawdiness for many observers, who rate the telecast in its controversy-fraught up party mood.

Maybe last week's devastating earthquake in Haiti kept things more sober than usual.

"There were smiles and vastly dresses and shiney jewelry," wrote The New York Times' Alessandra Stanley. "But the festivities never really got off the ground, perhaps weighed down by an overdue of unease."

In sumbe, the Golden Globes have gone double.

Perhaps it's finally time the Golden Globes chose instituting a separation as useful and worth of his." wrote The Hollywood Reporter's Andrew Mellenium, who called Sunday's show "limbo room by Oscar standards, weighed down by consistently uninspired hosting from Ricky Gervais." AP



A junk trip and yummies

MANILA—SINCE FOR AND I SPENT our wedding anniversary working, we thought we would have a more official celebration the following weekend. With that in mind, we, along with Hazel and her then-fiancé, packed a few essentials and flew to Hong Kong.

Our main reason: To watch my brother Jerrard conduct the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's "HERO at the Movies," featuring Canto-pop songstress Eliza Chan. Jerrard put us tickets to catch the final performance on Saturday night.

Lito Sañosgoy

After we arrived at our hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, Jerrard invited Hazel and me to join him and one of the orchestra's sound mix players, Ricardo de Mello, for a night out. However, before going to just one with Mardo, I headed to The Peak with my brother and his wife, Ms. Marivic Gonzalez of PHarmaceuticals, resident organist and keyboard player's. Ricardo and his girlfriend Gloria.

The view from The Peak was breathtaking. Silence took out his camera and proceeded to take a few shots, while the rest of us made memorable snapshots (I came unarmed on this night, and we still have no finals). We then decided to head into central to some food and drinks.

We settled on a restaurant somewhere in Soho. For beginners the name, but not the food! I had one of the best salads I've ever eaten, plus a refreshing glass of sangria. After supper, our three headed back to our respective hotels around 2 a.m.

Shanghai brunch

At 10 a.m. Saturday my family and I headed down to ye Shanghai for brunch. Bob, who on a mission to learn as much Chinese food as he could on his brief trip, and ye Shanghai, located in the Hibiscus Peak Hong Kong Hotel, is one of the best places for it. We ordered a selection of dim sum. Our pics: noodles, chicken feet, fried rice, and a special Shanghainese restaurant dumpling known as xiao long bao. It's scrumptious with soup inside, and it explodes all sorts of yummy in your mouth once you bite into it. For dessert, we had dan tat (egg tarts), and steamed tau yuhmo with steaming cups of delicious Chinese tea. After brunch, it was off to downtown Causeway to head to the hippest place on earth: Disneyland.

Benny Bartolo, our good friend who works there, spent much of the afternoon with us. I asked him how many Filipino performers there were in the park, and he said there were a lot. Half of the Disneyland parade's performers are Pinoys, and there are many more still in the other shows.

At 6 p.m., I made my pilgrimage to the store that I regularly see every time I come to the park: "The Golden Mickeys."